

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 804
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th July 2026

ROADMAP FOR EXPANSION OF DRONE ECOSYSTEM

804. SMT REKHA SHARMA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has prepared a roadmap for expansion of the drone ecosystem in the country;
- (b) the progress achieved under the drone Rules and PLI Scheme;
- (c) the number of drone startups supported; and
- (d) the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d) The Government has taken several measures to promote drone ecosystem in the country. Measures undertaken are as follows:

(i) The Central Government notified the Drone Rules, 2021 on 25 August 2021 to liberalize the use of drone technology. The Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 replaced the 'Remote Pilot License' with 'Remote Pilot Certificates' (RPCs). The Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2023 and Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2024 dispensed off the mandatory requirement of having an Indian Passport for issue of RPC and transfer/deregistration of drones. As on 15th July 2026, DGCA has authorised 274 RPTOs which have collectively trained 48,748 remote pilots across the country.

(ii) The Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft System (CSUAS) has been notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation enabling drone manufacturers to obtain a Type Certificate. As on 15th July 2026, 169 Type Certificates have been issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for drones catering to various use cases.

(iii) An interactive DigitalSky airspace map has been made available, segregating low-level airspace into Red, Yellow and Green Zones to facilitate drone operations. No permission is required for operations in Green Zones.

(iv) The Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework, has been published on 24 October 2021, for regulating low-level airspace management.

(v) To promote domestic manufacturing and improve the competitiveness of Indian drone enterprises, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had notified Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for drones and drone components on 30 September 2021 for a period of three years (2021-22 to 2023-24) with an outlay of INR 120 crores. The utilisation under the scheme is INR 98.32 crore.

(vi) A total of 23 applicants, comprising 12 drone manufacturers and 11 drone component manufacturers, were shortlisted under the PLI Scheme. All the shortlisted applicants were Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and domestic start-ups.
