

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 771
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20.07.2017**

USE OF UAVs FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION

771. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has started using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for mineral exploration, if so, the details thereof;
- b) the number of such UAVs being used for the purpose and those used for other purposes separately;
- c) whether these UAVs are produced in India, if so, the details thereof and if not, whether these are being imported, if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether the Government has any plans to produce them in the country in case of their import, if so, the details thereof; and
- e) the details of the advantages and disadvantages of the same?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL,
NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) & (b): Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited [MECL], a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Mines has used Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] for topographic survey and mapping in Mayurbhanj area in Odisha from December 2016 to April 2017. The work was taken up by MECL as research and development project. The work was outsourced to Indian Institute of Technology [IIT], Kanpur and the UAV was also owned by IIT, Kanpur.

(c) & (d): Information is not available in the Ministry. However, Defence Research and Development Organisation, under Ministry of Defence, has successfully carried out test flight of an indigenously developed UAV viz. TAPAS 201 (RUSTOM-II), for the armed forces in November, 2016.

(e): As per the experience of MECL, survey and mapping work of larger area can be completed in a shorter time by using UAVs.

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