GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Lok Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.: 1392 (TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15th December 2022)

RULES FOR USE OF DRONES

1392. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to revise rules for the civilian or commercial use of drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the revised policy includes regulation for ensuring safety and privacy issues and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has notified a Traffic Management Policy framework for drones and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (b) The Central Government has already revised drone regulations and notified the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 on 25th August 2021 to provide the necessary regulatory framework for the civilian and commercial use of drones. The Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 were notified on 11th February, 2022, abolishing the requirement of a drone pilot license. These rules cover various aspects for safe operation of drones like type certification, registration and operation of drones, airspace restrictions, research, development and testing of drones, training and licensing, offences and penalties etc.

Drone operations that violate the provisions of the Drone Rules, 2021 are punishable under Rule 49 of the Drone Rules, 2021 as well as provisions of any other law, for the time being in force.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued National Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework on 24 October 2021 for, inter-alia, facilitating safe and seamless transfer of goods by unmanned aircraft systems within and across zones. On 24 September 2021, the drone airspace map of the country has been published on the digital sky platform. The map demarcates India's entire airspace into red, yellow and green zones. Operation of drones in red and yellow zones is subject to permission from the Central Government and concerned Air Traffic Control authority respectively. No approval is required for operation of drones in green zones which means the airspace upto a vertical distance of 400 feet. The UTM policy framework is a dynamic document subject to changes based on technological advancements, actual experiences and other developments in airspace management systems.
