

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2693
(To be answered on the 16th March 2023)**

INDIAN DRONE INDUSTRY

2693. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the drones manufactured in the country are in high demand all over the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve this feat;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the country would become a hotspot for drone technology and would need at least one million drone pilots by the end of next year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (d) The Central Government recognised drone technology's economic and strategic importance for the country and liberalised the drone policy by notifying the Drone Rules, 2021 in August 2021. In accordance with the Drone Rules, 2021 and the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA has issued 14 type certificates as on date for drones manufacturing in India.

Central Government has launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Drone and Drone Components with an objective to incentivize manufacturing of drones and drone components in India so as to make them self-sustaining and globally competitive. The Scheme envisages a total incentive of Rupees 120 crore and has been approved for three financial years from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24.

Several startups have emerged in India working on designing, developing and manufacturing drones. According to industry feedback, several startups are

working on establishing international partnerships for exporting their drones to friendly foreign countries.

As per the industry feedback, it is estimated that over 1,00,000 drone pilots shall be required in the next 3 years. 48 drone training schools have already been approved by DGCA while several others are in the pipeline to ensure that adequate skilling infrastructure is in place to serve the emerging demand.
