

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3239
(ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023)**

MAKING INDIA A DRONE HUB

**3239. SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH:
SHRI D.K. SURESH:
SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:**

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that India is having all the essential qualities to become a potential drone leader, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government is keen on making India a leading drone hub in the near future; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

(a),(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has undertaken a series of reform measures to make India a global drone hub by 2030. The details are as under:

- a) Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 has been notified on 25th August 2021;**
- b) Drone Airspace Map has been published on 24th September 2021, opening up nearly 90% of Indian airspace as a green zone for drones flying up to 400 feet;**
- c) Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones has been notified on 30th September 2021;**
- d) UAS Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework has been published on 24th October 2021;**

- e) Monetary grant programme for the purchase of agricultural drones was announced by the Union Agriculture Ministry on 22nd January 2022;**
- f) All application forms under Drone Rules, 2021 have been made online on the DigitalSky Platform on 26th January 2022;**
- g) Drone certification scheme has been notified on 26th January 2022;**
- h) Mission 'Drone Shakti' has been announced for supporting drone startups and promoting Drone-as-a-Service (DrAAS) as part of the Union Budget on 1st February 2022;**
- i) Drone import policy has been notified on 9th February 2022, banning the import of foreign drones and freeing up the import of drone components;**
- j) Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 has been notified on 11th February 2022, abolishing the requirement of a drone pilot licence. Now a remote pilot certificate is issued by a DGCA-authorized RPTO which is adequate for the remote pilot to operate drones; and**
- k) As on 25th July 2023, there are 63 Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) authorized by DGCA for imparting drone training/skilling across the country.**

The Drones Rules, 2021 notified on 25th August 2021 provide the necessary regulatory framework for the civilian or commercial use of drones. These rules cover various aspects like type certification, registration and operation of drones, airspace restrictions, research, development and testing of drones, training and licensing, offences and penalties etc. The salient features of the Drones Rules, 2021 include the following:

- (i) Every drone, except for those meant for research, development and testing purposes, is required to be registered and should have a Unique Identification Number (UIN).**
- (ii) An airspace map of the country segregating the entire airspace into red, yellow and green zones is available on the digital sky platform. Operation of drones in red and yellow zones is subject to the approval of the Central**

Government and the concerned Air Traffic Control (ATC) authority respectively. No approval is required for the operation of drones in green zones.

- (iii) Drones are required to have the necessary type certification issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). No type certification is however required in the case of nano drones (up to 250-gram all-up weight) and model drones made for research and recreation purposes.**
- (iv) The owner and operators of drones are required to furnish the necessary personal details including their Indian passport number etc. for issuance of any registration or licence.**
- (v) Authorisation of Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTO) will be done by DGCA within specified time limits.**
