

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2185**  
ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020

**UAVs FOR MINERALS EXPLORATION**

2185. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has started using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for mineral exploration;
- (b) if so, the number of such UAVs being used for the same; and
- (c) other ways through which mineral exploration is being undertaken in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (c): Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a CPSU of Ministry of Mines has once adopted Drone technology on Research and Development basis for faster topographic survey for a reconnaissance survey [G-4 level] in Odisha in FY 2016-17.

Mineral exploration is carried out under various stages e.g. 'reconnaissance survey' [G4], 'preliminary exploration' [G3] and 'general exploration' [G2] following the guidelines of United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) and Mineral Evidence and Mineral Content Rules (MEMC-2015). The mineral exploration work involves large scale mapping and detailed mapping for delineating surface manifestation followed by drilling to delineate the third dimension of the mineralized zone and chemical analysis of surface and drill core samples to define the grade of mineralized zone.

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