

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3156
(To be answered on the 16th December 2021)**

DIGITAL SKY PLATFORM

3156. SHRI RITESH PANDEY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the current status of Digital Sky Platform;**
- (b) the number of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) drone flights approved/authorised through the Digital Sky platform from March 2020 to June 2020;**
- (c) the number and details of flights that have applied for exemption under the 'Conditional exemption to the Government Entities for Covid-19 related RPAS operations; and**
- (d) the list of the Government agencies authorised to use RPAs/Drones under the existing rules and law?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) Digital Sky Platform is the online platform hosted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for various activities related to the management of unmanned aircraft system activities in India. As per Drone Rules, 2021, notified on 25 Aug 2021, all unmanned aircraft systems/ drones are required to be registered on Digital Sky Platform.

On 24 September 2021, the drone airspace map of the country has been published on the Digital Dky 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.

(b) Before notification of Drone Rules, 2021, the drone users were required to seek flight permission through Digital Sky platform. The month-wise number of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)/drone flights approved/authorised

through the Digital Sky platform during the year 2020 is as under:

S.No	Month	No. of approved flights
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1.	April	1
2.	July	3
3.	August	38
4.	September	12
	Total	54

(c) & (d) As per the Drone Rules, 2021, no permission is required to operate drones in green zones upto a vertical distance of 400 feet. However, the list of Government agencies to whom permission have been granted under the existing rules for operation of drones in red zones are:

(i) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

(ii) Indian Council of Medical Research

(iii) National Aerospace Laboratories

(iv) Airport Director, Calicut

(v) Tamil Nadu Institute of Urban Studies
