

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 920
(To be answered on the 2nd December 2021)**

DRONE RULES

**920. DR. G. RANJITH REDDY
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Drone Rules, 2021 would revolutionise usage of drones in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has notified Drone Rules, 2021 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether inclusion of drones under Production Linked Scheme (PLI) would push usage of drones in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has identified items to be carried by drones and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has identified 16 airports to enhance the export opportunities of the region establishing dual benefits of enhancement of cargo movements and exports under the Krishi Udan Yojana, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to enhance air connectivity in Odisha?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The liberalised provisions of the Drone Rules, 2021 will promote the usage of drones in the country. The salient details of the Drone Rules, 2021 are as follows:

- (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 green, yellow and red zones is to be displayed on the digital sky platform. 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 up to a vertical distance of 400 feet.

(iii) The State Government, the Union Territory Administration and Law enforcement agencies have been empowered under the Rules to declare a temporary red zone for a specified period.

(iv) Drones are required to have the necessary type certification issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). No type certification is however required in case of nano drones (up to 250 grams all-up weight) and model drones made for research and recreation purpose.

(v) Drone operators are required to furnish the necessary personal details including their Indian passport number etc. for issuance of any registration or licence.

(vi) A remote pilot licence issued by DGCA is mandatory for operating any drone, except for drones upto 2 kg weight (used for non-commercial purposes) and drones weighing less than 250 grams.

(vii) Authorisation of Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTO) and issuance of remote pilot licences will be done by DGCA within specified time limits.

(viii) Number of forms have been reduced from 25 to 5 and types of fees have been reduced from 72 to 4.

(ix) A DigitalSky Platform is to be developed as a user-friendly online single-window system for all drone related approvals and authorisations.

(c) The liberalised provisions of the Drone Rules, 2021 as well as the incentives provided under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and drone components will promote the usage of drones in the country. The details of the PLI scheme are as follows:

(i) An incentive of Rs. 120 crore has been provided for Indian manufacturers of drone and drone components on the basis of their value addition in India. The value addition by a manufacturer will be calculated as the annual sales revenue from drones and drone components (net of GST) minus the purchase cost (net of GST) of drone and drone components. The incentive shall be provided over three financial years commencing from 2021-22.

(ii) The PLI that can be claimed by a manufacturer is 20% of the value addition by such manufacturer. The PLI rate is constant at 20% for all three years.

(iii) Minimum value addition is specified as 40% of net sales

(iv) Eligibility norm for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and startups is specified as Rs. 2 crore of annual sales revenue for drone manufacturers and Rs. 50 lakhs of annual sales revenue for drone component manufacturers.

(v) PLI for a beneficiary is capped at 25% of the total annual outlay to allow widening of the number of beneficiaries.

(vi) In case a manufacturer fails to meet the threshold for the eligible value addition for a particular financial year, the manufacturer will be allowed to claim the lost incentive in the subsequent year if the manufacturer makes up the shortfall in the subsequent year.

(d) National Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework has been issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on 24 October 2021 for, inter-alia, facilitating safe and seamless transfer of goods by unmanned aircraft systems within and across zones. The UTM policy framework is a dynamic document subject to changes based on technological advancements, actual experiences and other developments in airspace management systems.

Drone Rules, 2021 allow carriage of items other than arms, ammunition, explosives, military stores, dangerous goods, etc., subject to zonal restrictions indicated in the drone airspace map. Carriage of arms, ammunition, explosives and military stores, etc. are permissible only with the written permission of the Central Government or any other person authorised by the Central Government in this behalf. Carriage of dangerous goods on drone shall be in compliance with the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2003.

(e) The States and Union Territories identified for cargo movements under Krishi Udan Yojana are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh Airport.

The steps taken by the Government to enhance air connectivity in Odisha include the following:

(i) International and domestic air cargo facilities have been established at Bhubaneswar airport in an area of 863 sqm with an annual handling capacity of 26,149 MT.

(ii) Five airports, namely, Jharsuguda, Jeypore, Utkela, Rourkela & Rangeilunda have been identified for operations under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) flights.

(iii) Jharsuguda airport has been operationalised under UDAN, with flight connections to Delhi, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and Raipur. Subsequently, routes on commercial basis have also commenced connections with cities like Bengaluru.

(iv) Rourkela airport is licensed for operations for smaller aircrafts (Code 2B). Rourkela Airport is selected for upgradation/ operationalisation of RCS - UDAN flights with ATR 72 type of aircraft.

(v) Jeypore, Utkela, Rangeilunda and Amarda Road airstrips have received the bids under different round of bidding under RCS - UDAN.

(vi) Apart from already identified airports, Angul, Barbil, Birasal, Gudari, Hirakund, Jayakpur, Lanjigarh, Nawapara, Padampur, Rairangpur, Raisuan, Sukinda, Theruboli and Tushra unserved airports in Odisha are included in the UDAN document.

(vii) UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN from time to time. Upgradation/ operationalisation of

the airports are then undertaken as per the UDAN scheme guidelines.
