

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2741
(To be answered on the 17th March 2022)**

BAN ON IMPORT OF DRONES

2741. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of pending drone orders from foreign sources that were cancelled due to the notification dated February 9, 2022 that banned import of foreign drones;**
- (b) whether the above notification has not been implemented in a phased manner and if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the current supply and demand capacity of the domestic drone industry in the country;**
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any timeline by which domestic supply would meet domestic demand and if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the details of the Government's plan to meet short-term demands for drones, such as aerial cinematography; and**
- (f) where the domestic drone industry is currently underdeveloped and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) & (b) Drone Rules, 2021 were notified on 25th August 2021. As per Rule 16 of the said Rules, any person owning a drone imported into India before 30th November, 2021 was allowed to obtain a Unique Identification Number (UIN) for such unmanned aircraft system through the online DigitalSky Platform. Thus, more than three months prior notice period was available to drone importers.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide notification No. 54/2015-2020 dated 9th February 2022 prohibited import of drones in completely built up (CBU), semi knocked down (SKD) or completely knocked down (CKD) form, except for R&D, defence and security purposes.

The prohibition of drones has been implemented in a phased manner.

Information about cancellation of drone orders by drone importers is not available with the government.

(c) to (f) Drones offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy like - agriculture, mining, medicine delivery, surveillance, search and rescue, transportation, mapping, defence and law enforcement to name a few.

Given the reach, versatility and ease of use of this fast-evolving technology, it is difficult to provide a precise assessment of the demand and supply of the drone industry in the country. However, with the implementation of the liberalised drone rules, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the drone import policy it is estimated that the annual sales turnover of the Indian drone manufacturing industry may grow from approximately INR 60 crore in 2020-21 to approximately INR 900 crore by 2024-25.

The Indian industry, startups and academia are working closely to address technological gaps that may exist in different areas of drone usage.
