

(DGCA) on 3 February 2020 has conveyed its provisional approval for the modifications on the Dornier-228-201 civil aircraft carried out by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for limiting the weight of the upgraded aircraft upto 5,700 kgs., rendering it certified for air transport operations, including under the Regional Connectivity Scheme- 1 Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN)

(b) Dornier-228-201 is a 19-seater aircraft with short take-off and landing capability and can be operated from short airfields and semi-paved runways. Besides being equipped with fuel efficient engines and 5-bladed composite propellers whose maintenance is cost effective, it is an all-weather aircraft with modern avionics and navigation amenable for multi role operations, viz. passenger and cargo transportation, VIP movement, ambulance services, para-drop and para-troop movements, etc.

(c) 02 Nos. of Dornier-228-201 have been issued the Certificate of Airworthiness by DGCA, while another 07 Nos. are under production by HAL.

(d) HAL envisages production of 10-12 Nos. of Do-228-201 aircraft annually as per their demand estimates. The production rate can be increased by them as per demand requirements in order to harness economies of scale and enhance cost competitiveness.

Registration of drones

328. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any restriction has been imposed on possession of un-manned civil drones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the registration of drones is compulsory even for those which are used for photography of ceremonial functions; and

(d) whether Government propose to impose any fee for the operation of drones;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) The possession and operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly known as drones, is regulated by the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3, Series X, Part 1 issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) Under the provisions of CAR Section 3, Series X, Part 1, all RPAS, except nano category (all upweight up to 250 gm), intending to fly up to 50 feet (15 m) above ground level in uncontrolled airspace/enclosed premises for commercial / recreational / R&D purposes, shall require a Unique Identification Number (UIN) from DGCA.

With a view to facilitate the identification of civil drones and drone operators an opportunity for voluntary disclosure of such drones and drones operators has been provided through the online Digital Sky Platform.

(d) Under the provisions of Rule 15A of the Aircraft Rules 1937, the details of fee are as under:—

1. For issue of UIN for RPAS, the fee shall be ₹ 1000 only.
2. For grant and renewal of permit to operate a RPAS:
 - (i) For grant of permit, the fee is ₹ 25,000 only
 - (ii) For renewal of permit, the fee is ₹ 10,000 only

Review of status of domestic operations

329. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has drawn any plan to review the current status of scheduled domestic operations vis-a-vis passenger demands for air travel and bring back to pre COVID-19 level; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* Order dated 21.05.2020 permitted recommencement of domestic civil- flight operations with effect from 25.05.2020 in a calibrated manner with adoption of public health measures. Initially, the flights operations were allowed upto 33% of approved capacity of Summer Schedule, 2020 of airlines. Since then Ministry has been reviewing recommencement of domestic operations periodically in view of prevailing COVID-19 situation and passenger demand for air travel. Consequently, domestic air operations have been permitted to be enhanced from 33% to 45% from 26th June, 2020 and later on to 60% of approved capacity of Summer Schedule, 2020 with effect from 2nd September, 2020.