

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 810
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th December 2021)

MEDICINES FROM THE SKY PROJECT

810. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched the medicines from the sky project recently
- (b) if so, the details thereof
- (c) whether Government is planning to utilise the drone in different services specially in remote and hilly areas and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b) The Government of Telangana launched the 'Medicine from the Sky' project on 11 September 2021 in Vikarabad District, Telangana. The project seeks to deliver medicines, vaccines and blood etc. to remote and rural areas by means of drones. The Government of Telangana developed this project in collaboration with NITI Aayog, World Economic Forum and HealthNet Global. The Ministry of Civil Aviation granted necessary permissions for the project on 7 May 2021.

(c) & (d) Drones provide tremendous benefits in almost all sectors of the economy and welfare activities like - agriculture, medicine delivery, disaster relief, surveillance, infrastructure monitoring, cargo movement, mapping, defence and law enforcement etc.

Permissions have been granted by the Government for use of drones for vaccine delivery, inspection of oil pipelines and power transmission lines, anti-locust operations, agricultural spraying, survey of mines, land mapping under SVAMITVA scheme for issuance of digital property cards, etc. many of which have been in remote areas of the country

Some of the entities to whom permissions were granted by the Government for services in remote and hilly areas are as follows:

- (i) Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya for delivery of essential healthcare items on 02 July 2021
- (ii) National Health Mission, Mumbai for delivery of essential healthcare items in tribal areas of Palghar district in Maharashtra on 13 August 2021
- (iii) Indian Council of Medical Research for vaccine delivery in the States of Manipur, Nagaland and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands on 10 September 2021
