

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2423
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8th August 2022)

HAZARD POSED BY DRONES NEAR AIRPORTS

2423. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) the number of cases of drones or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) which are a hazard for aeroplanes detected around airports across the country during the last three years and current year, year-wise particularly in border states like Punjab;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any action plan for neutralizing drones and banning the use of drone cameras around airports across the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to introduce a licensing system for operation of drones/unmanned aerial vehicles and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c) As per Airports Authority of India (AAI), the number of cases of drones or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) detected around airports across the country, during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Year	No. of cases
2019	11
2020	NIL
2021	6
2022	2

(Till 28th July)

Of the above-mentioned cases, two have been reported in border States/ UTs - Surat Airport (Gujarat) on 2.2.2021 and Jammu Airport (Jammu and Kashmir) on 27.6.2021.

Drone Rules, 2021 were framed in consultation with various Ministries and security agencies. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) have been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide Office Memorandum dated 10.5.2019 for

handling threats from sub-conventional aerial platforms in the country, including vital installations under the Central Government.

The Drones Rules, 2021 notified on 25.8.2021 provide the necessary regulatory framework for commercial use of drones. These rules cover various aspects like type certification, registration and operation of drones, airspace restrictions, research, development and testing of drones, training and licensing, offences and penalties etc.

The key aspects of the regulatory framework under Drones 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 red, yellow and green zones is available on the digital sky platform. Operation of drones in red and yellow zones is subject to the approval of the Central Government and the concerned Air Traffic Control (ATC) authority respectively. No approval is required for operation of drones in green zones.
- (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 gram all-up weight) and model drones made for research and recreation purpose.
- (v) The owner and operators of drones are required to furnish the necessary personal details including their Indian passport number etc. for issuance of any registration or licence.
- (vi) Authorisation of Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTO) is done by DGCA after due scrutiny as per the specified process.
- (vii) The Director General of DGCA, or any person authorised by him, by general or special order in writing, may inspect any drone, any related facility, interact with any personnel, and inspect any document or record for the purpose of securing compliance with Drone Rules, 2021 and the provisions of the Aircraft Act, 1934.
- (viii) Rule 49 of the Drone Rules, 2021, lays down the provision of offences, classification and compounding. The contravention of rule 22 and rule 27 of Drone Rules, 2021 shall be cognizable and non-compoundable.
- (ix) Drone operations that violate the provisions of the Drone Rules, 2021 are punishable under Rule 49 of the Drone Rules, 2021 as well as provisions of any other law, for the time being in force.
