

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 22
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd February 2025)

DRONES REGISTERED IN THE COUNTRY

22. SHRI SANJEEV ARORA

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

- (a) the total number of commercial drones registered in the country as on September 2024, categorised by their purpose (agriculture, logistics, surveillance, etc.);
- (b) the percentage of the country's airspace currently available for drone operations under the Digital Sky platform;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to streamline drone regulation, including permissions and safety protocols for commercial drone operations; and
- (d) whether there are any specific measures exists to promote the use of drones in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and infrastructure, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) Total number of Type Certified commercial drones registered Digital Sky Platform till September 2024 is 10208. Further, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a total of 96 Type Certificates to different Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) models on the basis of their purpose. Out of these, 65 models are agriculture based and remaining 31 models are Logistics and Surveillance based.

(b) The Indian Airspace for Drone Operations is divided into three zones (Red, Yellow and Green) for the purpose of Drone operations as per Rule 19 of Drone Rules 2021. Further, the total count of zone details may be seen at Annexure. Except for these specified zones as red and yellow, the airspace in the country i.e., approximately 86% of the airspace is green and available for drone operations.

(c) & (d) To promote safe and efficient use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones), details of measures taken in the country by Ministry of Civil Aviation are as follows:

- i. Central Govt. has notified the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021 on 25th August 2021.
- ii. Central government has published the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft, 2022 to establish a global certification and accreditation framework for drones that would scale, with appropriate safeguards, the commercial application of various drone technologies.
- iii. Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2024 has been notified on 21st August, 2024, eliminating the mandatory requirement of passport in form D-2 and D-3 for the registration and de-registration/transfer of drone. Now, a government issued proof of identity and a government issued proof of address i.e. Voter ID, Ration Card or Driving License can now be accepted for registration and de-registration or transfer of drones.
- iv. No permission is required in green zones. Permission of concerned Air Traffic Control (ATC) is required for operating drones in yellow zone. Permission of Ministry of Civil Aviation and the concerned red zone owners would be required for operating drones in red zone.
- v. All Drones type certified under the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft System issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation is to ensure to have tamper avoidance mechanism for 'Firmware' as well as 'Hardware' to protect onboard computer from tampering (unauthorised access).

ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 22
DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.02.2025**

TOTAL COUNT OF ZONE DETAILS

ZONE TYPE	COUNT
Airspace - Red Zone	9969
Airport Red ZONE(airport region 5-KM)	147
Airport Yellow(5-8KM)	147
Airport Yellow(8-12KM)	147
coastal area India region_25 KM	1

* All other zones are considered green.

Source: Airports Authority of India