

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1142
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th March 2025)

DRONE POLICY

1142. DR. KALPANA SAINI

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

- (a) whether Government is giving special incentives under "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" to promote drone technology;
- (b) the number of projects related to crop surveillance and agricultural spraying through drones implemented under the Drone policy; and
- (c) the steps taken to promote the use of drones in agriculture and medical services under the drone policy, the State-wise detail thereof including the State of Uttarakhand?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) In order to make India a global drone hub manufacturing and operations of drones under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 were released to create a growth oriented regulatory framework for drones. To facilitate further growth, the Government has implemented Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Drones and Drone Components with an outlay of Rs 120 crores for three years FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24.

(b) and (c) The Government approved Central Sector Scheme 'NAMO DRONE DIDI' implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for providing 15,000 drones to Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), during the period of three years (2023-24 to 2025-26) with a view to provide sustainable business and livelihood support to them. 500 drones have been procured by Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) in 2023-24 using their internal resources and distributed to selected SHGs. Remaining 14500 drones will be provided by the end of FY 2025-26 under this scheme with Central Financial Assistance.

The ownership of these drones will be with Cluster Level Federation (CLF) of SHGs. The drones provided under "NAMO DRONE DIDI" Yojana to the SHGs will be used by them for providing rental services to the farmers for spraying of liquid fertilizers and pesticides.

Drones service aid in rapid, cost-effective and safe delivery of medical supplies and samples in hard-to-reach and tough terrains. Fifteen (15) All India Institute of Medical Sciences and other institutions have been identified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for Drone Services. Drone trials and trainings have been completed in 12 institutes.

Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken the following steps to increase the usage of drone technology across various sectors:-

- i. Notified the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021 on 25th August 2021.
- ii. Notified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, to promote manufacturing of drones and drone components in India
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a total of 101 Type Certificates to different Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) models on the basis of their purpose, Further, as on 28.02.2025, total number of Remote Pilot Training Organisation is 164, Total number of Drone registered and provided Unique Identification Numbers are 30,450, total number of Remote Pilot Certificates issued are 23,410.

In the State of Uttarakhand, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have procured 03 drone using their internal resources and distributed to selected SHGs.
