

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 808
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th December 2021)

DEPLOYMENT OF DRONES IN MINORITY AREAS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

808. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

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

- (a) the details of the kind of activities the drones will be monitoring in the assigned zones
- (b) the parameters under which minority areas were finalized as the target areas and
- (c) whether Government has formalized regulations to ensure the privacy of the citizens of said areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c) Drones offer a variety of uses to almost all sectors of the economy viz. agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, law enforcement etc.

In pursuance of the notification of Drone Rules 2021, the airspace map of the country was published on the digital sky platform on 24 Sep 2021. The map clearly demarcates India's entire airspace into red, yellow and green zones. Operation of drones in red and yellow zones is subject to permission from the Central Government and concerned Air Traffic Control authority respectively. No approval is required for operation of drones in green zones which means the airspace upto a vertical distance of 400 feet.

If there is an urgent need to temporarily prohibit drone flights in any specified area, the concerned State Government or the Union Territory Administration or a law enforcement agency may declare a temporary red zone over such specified area, for up to 96 hours at a time.

In order to counter the threat of non-compliant drones in the country, necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) has been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide Office Memorandum No. VI-23014/209/IND/2018-VS dated 10 May 2019.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued AVSEC circular No. -

02/2020 dated 11 February 2020 followed by addendum dated 09 February 2021 on "Basic requirements and technical specifications/ Qualitative Requirements (QRs) for counter drone technology for surveillance, detection and neutralisation of drones for airports".

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.
