

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2930**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE (iDEX) SCHEME**

2930 SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to boost innovations under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any intention to support the shortlisted proposals for successful completion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has selected any thrust areas under the scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (f): Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework was launched by the Government with the aim to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sector by engaging Industries including MSMEs, startups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia to promote self-reliance. Up to 28.02.2023, 139 iDEX winners have been provided grants/fund. The Services, after successful trials, have placed supply orders on three iDEX winners. Moreover, the Ministry has also accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 13 more iDEX products.

iDEX offers technical handholding through 19 associated Partner Incubators of iDEX, easier and faster access to test facilities/infrastructure available with various Government agencies, co-creation and co-innovation using smooth operating procedures and minimal documentation, to the iDEX winners, thus making the entire regime conducive for them. iDEX has launched challenges on frontier technologies/ domains like artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR), Autonomous/ Unmanned Solutions, Stealth, Domain Awareness, Secure Communications, Simulation, Navigation, Predictive Maintenance, Space, Cyber Security etc. to ensure that the Services enjoy a technological edge over their adversaries.

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