

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.524  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019

INDEX SCHEME

524. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

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**(a) to (e): A statement is attached.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 524 FOR ANSWER ON 6.2.2019**

1. The “Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)” initiative was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister during Defexpo 2018 in April 2018 to leverage India’s startup ecosystem to innovate for the defence sector. iDEX framework is administered through the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), a Section 8 company. DIO has launched Defence India Startup Challenge, under which Individuals, MSMEs, Startups and innovators are invited to participate in the challenges for resolution of specific Problem Statements put forth in consultation with the Service Headquarters / Defence Public Sector Units / Ordnance Factory Board.

2. Funding and mentoring support to the shortlisted candidates in the Defence India Startup Challenge to take their proposal from Proof of Concept (PoC) stage to successful prototyping and possible commercialization is the mandate of DIO.

3. The iDEX scheme envisages following activities:-

- (i) Setting up and managing of the iDEX network in the form of Independent Defence Innovation Hubs.
- (ii) Communicate with innovators / start-ups through the Defence Innovation Hubs regarding defence and aerospace needs.
- (iii) Organizing various challenges / hackathons to shortlist potential technologies for defence and aerospace use.
- (iv) Evaluate technologies and products coming from innovators / start-ups in terms of their utility and impact on the Indian defence and aerospace setup.
- (v) Enable and fund pilots, using innovation funds dedicated to the purpose.
- (vi) Interface with the military (Army / Navy / Airforce) top brass about key innovative technologies and encourage their adoption into the defence establishment with suitable assistance (financial if required).
- (vii) Facilitate scale-up, indigenization and integration in manufacturing facilities for successfully piloted technologies.

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