

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1491
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th July, 2021

INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE (iDEX)

1491. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:
SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently approved a budgetary support of around Rs 500 crore over the next five years to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) - Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this approved budget aims to provide financial support to start-ups, MSMEs, individual innovators and other partner incubators under the DIO framework;
- (d) if so, the details of any norms or guidelines that have been prescribed to select such partner organisations; and
- (e) whether the Department of Defence Production (DDP) will release funds to DIO for setting up and managing the iDEX network and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1491 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2021 REGARDING 'INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE (iDEX)'.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has approved a central sector scheme viz. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) with budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for the next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial support to nearly 300 Startups/ MSMEs/ individual innovators and about 20 Partner incubators through Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).

(d) i. To avail the grants under the grant mechanism of iDEX i.e. Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK), the eligibility is as follows:

- Startups, as defined and recognized by Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP), now DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- Any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013, primarily a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006.
- Individual innovators are also encouraged to apply (research & academic institutions can use this category to apply).

ii. To avail the grants as iDEX Partner Incubators, the eligibility is as follows:

- The applicant incubator should be registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or public-private partnership mode, and should have received establishment or grant support from a Ministry/Department of Government of India in the past.
- The incubator must have been in operation for a minimum of 3 years before application for affiliation with DIO, and experience of having supported at least 25 startups.
- It should have successfully graduated at least 5 startups in the past 3 years.
- It should have at least 25 mentors for startups affiliated with it, at least 5 of them should be relevant to defence or aerospace domain.
- Experience of having run sector-focused accelerator programs in at least two sectors, with investable startups having come out of each of them.

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- Experience of having partnered with academia and research sector.
- Extensive corporate, investor, academic, vendor, mentor and government relationships to support start-ups.

(e) The said scheme formulated by Department of Defence Production (DDP) envisages to fund DIO to take up the following activities:

- i. Setting up and managing the iDEX network in the form of Partner Incubators.
- ii. Communicating with innovators/start-ups/technology centres of MSMEs through the Partner Incubators (PIs).
- iii. Organizing various challenges/ hackathons to shortlist potential technologies and entities for defence and aerospace use.
- iv. Interfacing with the Services about key innovative technologies and encouraging their adoption into the defence establishment with suitable assistance.
