

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2022

INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

3841. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of funds allocated for the creation of an ecosystem for technology development in Defence by engaging Research and Development institutes, academia, industries, startups and even individual innovators under the 'Innovations for Defence Excellence' (iDEX) initiative;
- (b) whether projects proposed under the iDEX have been taken up for mass production by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the incentives proposed by the Government to encourage more youth to participate in defence innovations and startups in the country?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3841 FOR ANSWER ON 25.03.2022 REGARDING “INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE”.

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 and promote self reliance. The Government has approved a central sector scheme viz. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) with budgetary support of Rs. 498.78 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).

Under iDEX route, the Government focuses on innovation and design & development, and supports the startups and innovators for successful prototype development. So far, 132 startups have been engaged and 66 contracts have been signed for prototype development. Out of them, Indian Navy, after successful trials, has placed a supply order on one iDEX winner. Moreover, the Ministry has also accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 14 more iDEX products, paving the way for placement of orders on the iDEX winners.

iDEX incentivizes the youth to participate in iDEX as startups by providing grants, easier and faster access to test facilities/infrastructure available with various Government agencies, co-creation and co-development using smooth operating procedures and facilitating procurement, thus making the entire regime conducive for them.
