

(c) The contract would have positive effect on infusing capital into market and boosting employment generation in the fields of Communications, Avionics, Information Technology apart from civil and electrical equipments and construction.

(d) As per the contract, the project is scheduled for completion by 2024.

Status of import of military hardware

821. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is one of the top importers of military hardware globally, if so the reasons therefor;

(b) the quantum of defence equipment imported from different countries during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether Government has formulated Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) to encourage the defence sector, if so the details thereof;

(d) whether the move will reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant, if so the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There is no official information that India is one of the top importers of military hardware globally since no country officially reveals information on their import of defence equipment.

(b) During the last three financial years (2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20), 18, 17 & 32 contracts respectively have been signed with foreign vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment for Armed Forces. The countries from which defence equipment imports are being undertaken include Russia, USA, Israel, France and United Kingdom.

(c) Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) has been launched by Government of India to promote indigenous defence production, with special focus on participation of MSMEs and Start Ups by bridging gaps in defence testing infrastructure in the country. The objective of the scheme is to set up Defence Testing Infrastructure that will provide easy access and meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry.

(d) Establishment of test facilities under DTIS Scheme would enable indigenous defence manufacturers to test and certify their products within the country, thereby contributing towards self reliance.

(e) The DTIS scheme is to run for the next five years with implementation date of 31.03.2025.

Startups in defence sector

822. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts to promote start ups in the defense sector under 'Aatmanirbhar Mission' to localize the production of defence sector products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up innovative centres in institutions and organizations in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework, was launched by Department of Defence Production, with the aim to achieve self-reliance and to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sectors by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

(ii) Under iDEX, the projects or problem statements are identified based on the requirements projected by the Armed Forces, OFB & DPSUs. 58 iDEX winners have so far been identified for 18 problem statements/ challenges under three rounds of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC).

(iii) Separate procedure for 'Make-II' category (Industry funded) has been notified under Defence Procurement Procedure to encourage indigenous