

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2449**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

**iDEX INITIATIVE**

2449 DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has implemented “Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)” initiative, if so, the details and the aims and objectives thereof;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated by Government under the said initiative during the last three years and current year; and
- (c) the other steps taken by Government to encourage start-ups to contribute in defence sector and develop aerospace setup in the country?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (c): 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 for 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).

The Government encourages the start-ups to contribute to the defence sector and develop aerospace setup in the country by providing substantial grants, 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, and facilitating procurement, thus making the entire regime conducive for them.

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