

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2453**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

**DEFENCE STARTUPS**

2453 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of defence start-ups launched since the inception of the Defence IndianStartup Challenge (DISC) under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) programme;
- (b) the list of defence startups that are operating successfully;
- (c) the total amount allocated for the financial support of defence start-ups in the country; and
- (d) whether the startups were able to help the defence forces in addressing real time problems?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (d): 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. Under iDEX framework so far, 7 editions of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) have been launched.

Under iDEX route, the Government focuses on innovation and design & development, and supports the startups and innovators for successful prototype development. Large number of startups have participated in various rounds of Defence India Startup Challenge. So far, 136 startups have been engaged and 102 contracts have been signed for prototype development. Moreover, the Ministry has also accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 14 iDEX products, paving the way for placement of orders on the iDEX winners.

The Government has approved a central sector scheme for iDEX with budgetary support of Rs. 498.78 crore for the 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The problem statements emanating from defence forces are launched under iDEX framework for development of technology and prototypes thus, addressing the real time problems of defence forces.

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