

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2148**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

**DARE TO DREAM SCHEME**

2148. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:  
SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the application(s) received under 'Dare to Dream' scheme to promote individuals and startups for innovation in the area of defence and aerospace during the last three years;
- (b) the number of projects awarded out of the application received;
- (c) the selection criteria of the individuals/companies applied for the scheme; and
- (d) the manner in which selected individuals/companies are getting benefit(s) under the said scheme?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a): The details of the applications received under the Dare to Dream (D2D) contests during the last three years is enumerated below: -

Sl. No.	Dare to Dream (D2D) Contest	Year of Contest	No. of Application received
1.	Dare to Dream-1	2019	3080
2.	Dare to Dream-2	2020	1750
3.	Dare to Dream-3	2021	819
4.	Dare to Dream-4	2023	792

(b): Dare to Dream (D2D) 1.0 (2019), D2D 2.0 (2020) and D2D 3.0 (2021) have been successfully conducted, wherein, more than 5600 applications were received and out of which 86 technologies/ideas have been recognized and Rs. 3.97 Crore worth of prize Money has been awarded to the individual innovators and startups. DRDO also supports best awarded ideas to realize them into prototype through TDF scheme. A total of 08 projects at a cost of Rs. 6.93 Crore have been awarded under TDF scheme to Dare to Dream winners of Startup category.

...2/-

(c): The individual innovators (Indian Citizen above 18 years age) and Startups (Registered with Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade and with Indian founder) are eligible to participate in the D2D contest. The entries/applications received under the D2D contest are evaluated by a two stage process: -

- (i) Screened by Domain Expert Committee headed by Director General (Concerned Technical Cluster).
- (ii) Shortlisted and Ranked by Independent Expert Committee. The selection criteria includes, Novelty, Applicability, Implementability, Technical Merit and Maturity.

(d): Dare to Dream winners are awarded with cash prize money in the Individual and Startup categories. The winners are also encouraged and further considered for funding for the realization of Prototypes under Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) (MoD) on merit and feasibility basis.

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