GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 941
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th July, 2025

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME

941. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the new Deep Tech and Cutting-Edge policies under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme, if so, the details thereof along with their key features/objectives;

(b) the number of private sector entities including startups and MSMEs received funds through these policies during the last two years along with the nature of technologies supported;

(c) the details of projects undertaken through the 15 DRDO Industry Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs), State-wise and institution-wise and the specific futuristic research areas being covered;

(d) the details of mechanisms to monitor the progress and outcomes of projects supported under DIA-CoEs and TDF; and

(e) whether the Government has any future plans to expand the network of DIA-CoEs to introduce additional support measures for faster indigenisation of critical defence technologies and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE   (SHRI SANJAY SETH)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) Yes, Sir. An additional grant or Corpus of Rs 500 Cr has been approved by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri to cater for Deep-tech and cutting edge projects as separate verticals under TDF.

(b) The process of the selection and identification of Deep Tech projects has been initiated. Currently, 09 projects are launched under this initiative by TDF and 09 industries are engaged in 04 projects sanctioned through DIA-CoEs under the Grants in Aid Scheme of DRDO.

(c) Projects are covering the research areas like Powder Metallurgy, High Power Microwave Sources & Devices , Advanced Ballistics, Smart and Intelligent Textile Technology, Photonic Technologies, Aerospace Systems and Materials, Micro and Nano Systems Science & Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Quantum Technology, Naval Systems and Naval Technologies, High Power CW Laser Source, Additive Manufacturing, Advanced Materials & Processing, Aero Engine, Desert Warfare Technologies, AI for Information and War-gaming Technologies, Advanced Nano Materials, Sensors based on Semiconductors etc. List of Institute involved is Attached as **Appendix 'A'**.

(d) DRDO has Long Term Directed Research Policy (LTDRP) for engaging academia. Projects are monitored at three stages in regular intervals throughout the year. Technical evaluation committee (TEC) evaluates the new project proposals and does regular technical progress monitoring. Research Advisory Board (RAB) reviews the new projects recommended by TEC and also monitors sanctioned projects for their progress and addresses the techno managerial issues of Centre of Excellence (CoE) and the projects. Governing Council approves the projects, oversees the overall functioning of the Centre and projects sanctioned through the Centre.

The awarded projects under TDF scheme to various industries are guided & monitored regularly by Project Monitoring and Mentoring Group (PMMG) as per milestones till the completion of the projects. A Technical Committee (TC) Meeting chaired by Director General (Technology Management) (DGTM) held every month and Empowered Committee (EC) meeting chaired by Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO held once in four months to monitor the progress of the awarded projects. Trials and Certification are conducted to monitor the outcome of the projects. DRDO regularly interacts with Services & DPSUs for informing them about all new Deep tech projects and their progress so that they can be utilised.

(e) The existing centres are in the process of getting stabilized and matured for the outcome driven research projects. Considerable efforts are being put by to bring the existing centres into the fold of industry and academic collaborative research. The new centres commissioned in 2022 are still streamlining the research for defence oriented practical outcomes. In view of this, there are no immediate plans to establish new DIA-CoEs, but in order to expand the collaborative research, projects can be explored through any of the established DIA-CoEs. Faculty from any of the academic institutes can send the concept notes or research proposal on the common R&D interest areas of DRDO to the any of the existing DIA-CoEs.

Appendix 'A'

SI. No.	State	Institute of PI	Institute of Co-PI	No of Projects Sanctioned
1	Andhra Pradesh	IIT Tirupati		1
		GITAM University		1
		College of Engineering Andhra University Vishakhapatnam		1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Central Agricultural University, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh	Pacchunga University College, Aizawl (01)	1
3	Assam	IIT Guwahati	Assam University, State Public Health Lab, Assam Mizoram University	2
		CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat	IIT Jammu(01)	4
4	Delhi	IIT Delhi	AIIMS (01), IIIT Delhi (01)	56
5	Gujarat	Gujarat University		2
		SVNIT, Surat	C K Pithawala , Surat(01)	1
6	Jammu and Kashmir	IIT Jammu		2
		Central University, Jammu(CUJ)		7
7	Jharkhand	IIM Ranchi		1
8	Karnataka	IISc Bengaluru	CoEP Pune(01), IIT Madras (01), NAL Bengaluru (01)	36
		National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru		2
		NIT Surthakal	ARCI Hyderabad(01), CGC RI Kolkata(01)	1
		IIT Dharwad		1
9	Madya Pradesh	Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (ABV-IIITM) Gwalior		1
10	Maharashtra	IIT Bombay		16
		DIAT Pune		2
11	Meghalaya	NIT Meghalaya	NIT Manipur	1
12	Mizoram	Mizoram University	NIT, Nagaland (01)	10
		NIT Mizoram		1

13	Orissa	IIT Bhubaneshwar		1
14	Rajasthan	IIT Jodhpur	IIEST Shibpur(01), IIT Kanpur (01)	6
15	Tamil Naidu	IIT Madras	IIT Jodhpur(01)	45
		IITDM, Tamil Naidu		1
		National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli		2
		Sri Sivasubramaiya Nadar college of Engineering, Chennai		1
16	Telangana	IIT Hyderabad	IIT Madras (01)	30
		University of Hyderabad		2
		CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad		2
		IIIT Hyderabad		1
		IDRBT, Hyderabad		1
17	Tripura	NIT, Agartala	Mizoram University(01)	1
18	Uttar Pradesh	IIT BHU	University of Hyderabad (01)	13
		IIT Kanpur		16
19	Uttarakhand	IIT Roorkee		9
20	West Bengal	CSIR-CGCRI Kolkata		4
		Jadavpur University		5
		CSIR-CMERI Durgapur	NIT Durgapur (01)	6
		NIT Durgapur		2
		ISI, Kolkata		1
		IIT Kharagpur		3
Total		55 Unique Institutes		**302**

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