

## MAKE IN INDIA Small, medium-scale arms projects get nod 48 Pvt Defence Projects Get Quick MHA Approval

### Cutting through Red Tape

Speedy security clearances to 48 private investments in defence sector

Around 1,200 applications received clearance annually in last few years

800 applications for security vetting received in 2018

Foreign investments from US, UK, Israel, Belgium, China and Japan among those cleared last year

235 applications in civil aviation sector too cleared

170 applications for new TV channels & 179 community radio stations too received security clearances

Streamlining security clearance mechanism in May 2015 helped

ILLUSTRATION: ARINDAM

MHA has received around 800 new applications this year for security vetting

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**New Delhi:** The home ministry has given speedy security clearances to 48 private investments in the defence sector. The spurt in the clearance follows streamlining of the security clearance mechanism in May 2015. Nod for small and medium-scale arms production was among that received MHA clearances last year to boost overall domestic manufacturing, documents reviewed by ET shows.

Though big-ticket military hardware investments are cleared by the defence ministry, corporates that received clearance include

Reliance and Kalyani groups, which entered into strategic partnership with BAE Systems for production of air defence guns at the just-concluded Def-Expo.

The government expects domestic private share in defence budget to go up by 20% in four years from 5% after liberalising the FDI regime and 'Make in India' initiative. A senior home ministry official said the ministry has cleared around 1,200 applications annually in the last few years to promote Make in India. MHA cleared foreign investments from US, UK, Israel, Belgium, China and Japan last year. The ministry has received around 800 new applications this year for security vetting.

MHA cleared 235 applications in civil aviation sector for chartered flights, ground handling, cargo

handling and individuals to become directors of companies associated with flying business. 46 proposals allowing FDI in the country too received MHA's security clearance. Three applications to facilitate printing of currency notes too was allowed as well. Apart from this, 41 other proposals, including 12 from banks forwarded by the finance ministry too has got the go-ahead.

The largest share of 1,071 applications were forwarded by the I&B ministry of which 390 were cleared. Those cleared include 170 applications for new TV channels and 179 community radio stations. Application from the Kalandhi Maran group is yet to be disposed, the source said. 18 applications in the shipping sector too received security nod.



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