

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 133

ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023

FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN SCIENTISTS IN STEMM

133. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of Science and Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether percentage of Indian women scientists is still less as compared to male scientists, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor and corrective steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (b) whether certain women scientists, due to various circumstances, could not pursue Science and Technology activities and if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also planning any fellowship programme with foreign countries especially for women in Science and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) and if so, details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by Government to increase the number of women scientists in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) As per recent report “Research & Development Statistics at a Glance”, published by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), 56747 (16.6%) women are directly engaged in R&D activities as on April 01, 2018 out of total 3.42 lakh R&D personnel. The Government has taken various corrective steps in this regard and started different women centric programmes to promote women in Science and Technology (S&T) domain.
- (b) It has been noticed that a pool of women scientists could not pursue S&T activities and research primarily due to their family responsibilities. For this category, DST is implementing

‘Women Scientist Scheme’ which provides various opportunities to women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career in S&T domain. There are three major components of Women Scientists Scheme namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences; ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for research projects that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit; and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. The scheme facilitates women scientists by providing fellowship and other research grant.

(c) The Department of Science and Technology is implementing ‘Indo-US Fellowship for Women in Science and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (WISTEMM)’ to provide international exposure to women scientists & technologists. Forty (40) women scientists have visited premier institutions in USA under WISTEMM to undertake international collaborative research.

(d) The Department of Science and Technology is implementing umbrella scheme ‘Women in Science & Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)’ with aim to increase number of women scientists in the country and bring gender parity in S&T domain. There are various programmes under WISE-KIRAN Scheme including Women Scientists Scheme and Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM to promote women scientists. The CURIE (Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence) Programme provides support to women institutions for development of research infrastructure and creation of state-of-the-art research laboratories under to enhance women’s participation in S&T domain. DST has also started a unique programme “Vigyan Jyoti” for meritorious girl students of Class 9-12 to encourage them to pursue higher education and career in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) particularly in the areas where women are underrepresented. Another special programme ‘Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)’ aims to transform institutions for more gender sensitive approach and inclusiveness with ultimate goal to achieve gender equality. Further, Science and Engineering Research Board of DST is also implementing “SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)” programme. In addition to this, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is also implementing ‘Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE)’ to enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology research.
