

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1680
ANSWERED ON- 15/03/2023

LOW REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AS SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

1680 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the representation of women as scientists and engineers is considerably low despite a high percentage of female students in STEM;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to establish the National Research Foundation;
- (d) the steps taken by the National Research Foundation to promote STEM education in the country; and
- (e) the year-wise number of women beneficiaries under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) from 2019-2022?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b) 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. With aim to increase number of women scientists in the country and bring gender parity in S&T domain, DST is implementing an umbrella scheme ‘Women in Science and Technology-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)’ including ‘Women Scientist Scheme’ and ‘Indo- US fellowship for Women in Science and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (WISTEMM)’ to promote women scientists.

(c) & (d) In pursuance of Budget Announcement 2019, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India had initiated the proposal of setting up of National Research Foundation (NRF). The same was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/ Committee on Establishment Expenditure (CEE) and the Draft Cabinet Note was submitted for Cabinet approval. Thereafter, multiple discussions have been held at various levels on the basic structure, governance and budgetary aspects of the NRF. Now, a revised EFC/CEE memo has been prepared by Department of Science & Technology and approved in the EFC/CEE meeting held on 23.01.2023. The draft NRF Bill, 2023 for establishing NRF as a statutory body is in process.

(e) The year wise number of women beneficiaries under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) from 2019-2022 is as under:

Year	Number of women beneficiaries
2019-20	29,715
2020-21	30,993
2021-22	39,831
