

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2208
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2023

Measures to promote women scientists

2208. **Dr. Anil jain:**

Shri Kartikeya Sharma:

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

- (a) the measures implemented by the Department of Science and Technology to promote career prospects for women scientists and to motivate young students, especially girls, to choose science as their academic and career path; and
- (b) the summary of the scholarship funds distributed to female students and scholars by the department in the last five years, year-wise?

A N S W E R

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

(a) The Department of Science and Technology is implementing a holistic scheme 'Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)' to provide various opportunities to women in the Science & Technology (S&T) domain through various programmes *viz.*, Women Scientists Scheme that aims to support women scientists who had a career break; WISE Fellowship for PhD (WISE-PhD) to pursue doctoral research in basic and applied sciences; WISE-Post Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF) for post-doctoral research in basic and applied sciences; WISE-SCOPE to address societal challenges through S&T interventions and WIDUSHI to support senior women scientists continue their scientific career. Another programme, 'WISE Internship in IPR (WISE-IPR)', provides training in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. Further, a unique initiative, 'Vigyan Jyoti', started in the year 2020, aims to encourage meritorious girls to pursue a career in underrepresented areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). Presently, around 21600 female students of Class IX-XII from 250 Districts of the country, are enrolled in this programme. Various year-round activities *viz.*, parent-student counselling, career counselling, special academic classes, tinkering activities, role model interactions, lab/industry visits, science camps, etc., are being conducted under this programme.

(b) The year-wise summary of the scholarship funds distributed to female students of Class XII under Vigyan Jyoti from the Financial Year 2020-21 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Scholarship (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	2020-21	600.00
2.	2021-22	971.52
3.	2022-23	2178.96
4.	2023-24 (till November)	1672.48
	Total	5422.96
