

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 767**  
**ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024**

**Career opportunities for women scientists**

**767 # Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote career opportunities for women scientists and encourage young students, especially girls, to pursue science stream; and
- (b) the total amount distributed as scholarships to female students and scholars by the Department during the last five years, the details thereof, 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 Ph.D. (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, another 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 under 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) Under the Vigyan Jyoti Programme, there is a provision of one-year scholarship to the girls of Class XII. The total amount of Rs. 5841.08 lakh is distributed as scholarships to female students since its inception in the year 2020. The year-wise scholarships distributed to female students are as follows:

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Scholarships (Rs. in lakh)</b>
1.	2020-21	600.00
2.	2021-22	971.52
3.	2022-23	2178.96
4.	2023-24	2090.60
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5841.08</b>

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