

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 443
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2024

STEPS TO PROMOTE WOMEN SCIENTISTS

443. SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to promote women scientists; and
- (b) the details of beneficiary schemes in this regard, if any, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing a dedicated scheme 'Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)' to promote women scientists. The scheme is aiming to provide various opportunities to girls, women researchers and women institutions in the field of Science & Technology (S&T) through different programmes in order to bring gender parity. One of the flagship programmes 'Women Scientist Scheme (WOS)' under the WISE-KIRAN Scheme provides different opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had break in their careers, to pursue research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering.

During 2023-24, the Women Scientists Scheme was completely revamped and several new programmes were introduced under WISE-KIRAN Scheme. One of the new initiatives, the 'WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD)' has started to support women researchers within the age group of 27-45 years to pursue Ph.D. in Basic and Applied Sciences. Further, the 'WISE-Post-Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF)' programme promotes women scientists to carry out Post-Doctoral research in Sciences & Engineering. Another programme 'WISE-SCOPE' enables women scientists to address societal challenges through S&T interventions in 5 thematic areas of societal relevance. Under WISE-PDF and WISE-SCOPE programmes, women have the opportunity to conduct research from the ages of 27 to 60 years. DST also launched the 'WIDUSHI' programme to support senior women scientists aged 45-62 years, aiming to harness their potential for the betterment of science and society. Additionally, the 'WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR)' programme provides training in the field of Intellectual Property Rights to young women of 25-45 years of age.

Besides the fellowship programmes, the 'Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE)' programme supports women institutions and strengthening their research infrastructure and facilities for quality education and research.

Another unique programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' under WISE-KIRAN aims to encourage meritorious girls to pursue higher education and careers in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) especially in those subject areas where women are underrepresented. On the other hand, 'Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)' programme is sensitizing institutions to a more gender-sensitive approach, inclusion and equity.

Furthermore, DST's erstwhile SERB started "POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)" programme in 2020 to address comparatively lower participation of women scientists in research activities and to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has also been implementing 'Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE)' since the year 2011 to enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology research. In 2023-24,

CSIR has first time announced A Special Call for Research Grants for Women Scientists (CSIR-ASPIRE) to empower women and promote 'Nari Shakti' in the country. Under CSIR-ASPIRE, women scientists in regular employment receive financial support to conduct research in major disciplines of science and engineering.

(b) About 2900 women scientists and 81218 girls (approx.) have benefitted through various R&D schemes of Government of India. The State/UT-wise details of women and girls beneficiaries in these schemes are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Women benefitted under DST-WISE-KIRAN (since 2019-20)	Girls benefitted under DST-Vigyan Jyoti (since 2019-20)	Women benefitted under POWER (since 2020-21)	Women benefitted under DBT-BioCARE (since 2021-22)	Women benefitted under CSIR-ASPIRE (since 2023-24)
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	394	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	33	2647	8	0	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1000	1	0	0
4.	Assam	34	3526	12	1	4
5.	Bihar	10	3557	5	0	3
6.	Chandigarh	33	451	5	2	2
7.	Chhattisgarh	12	3654	3	0	3
8.	Dadar, Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0	853	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	190	687	55	13	28
10.	Goa	8	445	7	0	4
11.	Gujarat	39	3906	12	0	10
12.	Haryana	46	3411	8	1	2
13.	Himachal Pradesh	16	3115	3	0	0
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	40	2042	4	0	2
15.	Jharkhand	12	3346	7	0	5
16.	Karnataka	109	3671	49	5	20
17.	Kerala	110	2938	30	3	18
18.	Ladakh	1	476	0	0	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	42	4128	18	2	5
20.	Maharashtra	180	4691	49	6	20
21.	Manipur	14	1211	3	2	5
22.	Meghalaya	1	1166	1	0	1
23.	Mizoram	6	187	0	1	1
24.	Nagaland	5	319	0	0	1
25.	Odisha	26	3626	13	0	16
26.	Puducherry	7	1350	3	0	1
27.	Punjab	51	3566	31	4	12
28.	Rajasthan	42	4661	20	0	9
29.	Sikkim	1	691	0	0	0
30.	Tamil Nadu	162	0	56	7	37
31.	Telangana	93	2202	25	4	14
32.	Tripura	4	819	0	0	3
33.	Uttar Pradesh	177	6062	36	6	33
34.	Uttarakhand	43	3003	11	0	12
35.	West Bengal	139	3417	37	3	24
	TOTAL	1690	81218	512	60	301
