

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1729
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2025

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN SCIENTISTS

1729# SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken steps to address the problem faced by women scientists due to “break-in-career”;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of beneficiaries for the last five years, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Yes Sir and Madam. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing a comprehensive initiative, Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) to address the problems of Women Scientists due to “break-in-career” and strengthen women’s participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. This initiative includes multiple programs that provide opportunities for women in STEM at different career stages. Department implemented the Women Scientist Scheme (WOS), which included three programs: WOS-A for research in basic and applied sciences, WOS-B for lab-to-land translational research for societal benefit and WOS-C for training in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Following a third-party review, these programs have been restructured into four new initiatives under WISE-KIRAN. The WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD) program supports women pursuing doctoral research in basic and applied sciences. Women scientists and technologists between the ages of 27 and 45 years are eligible for this opportunity. The WISE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF) and WISE-Societal Challenges with Opportunities (WISE-SCOPE) programs provide opportunities for women to conduct lab based basic/applied or translational lab-to-land research respectively in STEM. WISE-PDF focuses on laboratory-based research in basic and applied sciences, while WISE-SCOPE supports translational research that addresses societal challenges. Both programs are open to women scientists and technologists aged 27 to 60 years who wish to continue their research careers. The WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR) program provides

training in the field of Intellectual Property Rights, with the goal of enabling self-employment opportunities in this sector. Women between the ages of 25 and 45 years can apply for this internship. DST is also implementing the WIDUSHI program, which supports senior women scientists in two categories: retired women scientists between the ages of 57 and 62 years and women scientists who are not in regular employment, within the age range of 45 to 62 years. This program allows them to continue contributing to the scientific advancements.

The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India had initiated a special scheme “Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (BioCARE)” in the year 2011 with the aim to enhance participation of women scientists in India towards research in Biotechnology and allied areas. It also provides a unique opportunity to those women researchers who had a break in their career to help them re-enter into the mainstream research and to provide a launch pad for further forays into the field of science and technology and hence, support in their overall career development.

(c) The details of beneficiaries from the DST-WISE-KIRAN and DBT- BioCARE schemes during the last five years, state-wise is given below.

DST-WISE-KIRAN SCHEME

Name of State/UT	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Andhra Pradesh	4	4	2	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	0	0	0
Assam	5	1	5	3	17
Bihar	1	1	1	0	0
Chandigarh	2	0	9	1	9
Chhattisgarh	3	1	0	0	3
Delhi	19	16	26	24	52
Goa	0	2	0	0	3
Gujarat	5	0	4	7	9
Haryana	4	4	2	3	11
Himachal Pradesh	3	1	1	0	4
Jammu and Kashmir	5	0	11	6	17
Jharkhand	0	1	3	1	2
Karnataka	15	7	16	11	24
Kerala	10	16	19	6	36
Madhya Pradesh	7	4	3	1	16
Maharashtra	31	14	20	11	41
Manipur	3	0	2	1	2

Name of State/UT	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Mizoram	0	0	0	3	4
Nagaland	0	0	1	2	0
Orissa	1	3	4	1	10
Puducherry	2	0	1	0	2
Punjab	8	1	12	8	16
Rajasthan	3	3	5	4	9
Sikkim	0	0	1	0	1
Tamil Nadu	17	14	20	18	39
Telangana	13	3	19	12	34
Tripura	0	0	0	0	3
Uttar Pradesh	20	9	17	16	44
Uttarakhand	9	3	2	3	13
West Bengal	12	7	16	14	34

DBT- BioCARE SCHEME

Name of State/UT	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	0	0	0
Assam	1	1	0	0	0
Bihar	2	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0
Goa	00	1	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	3	1	0	1	1
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	2	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	3	2	1	5	5
Kerala	1	2	0	3	3
Madhya Pradesh	1	0	0	2	2
Maharashtra	3	4	1	6	8
Manipur	0	1	0	2	1
Mizoram	0	0	0	1	1
New Delhi	12	13	2	12	10
Orissa	1	1	0	0	0
Punjab	1	3	0	6	5
Rajasthan	1	0	0	0	0
Tamilnadu	3	2	0	7	6
Telangana	2	1	0	4	4
Uttar Pradesh	3	1	0	6	6
Uttarakhand	2	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	1	2	0	4	3
