

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3000**  
ANSWERED ON 13/08/2026

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DOMAINS**

3000 Dr. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

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

- (a) whether the Department has launched dedicated funding to encourage women's participation in cutting-edge fields such as Generative AI, Quantum Computing and Semiconductor technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of school girls benefitted under the Vigyan Jyoti Scheme across the country during the last three years;
- (d) whether any institutional mechanism exists for mentorship and career progression support for women researchers under Women in Science and Engineering - Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (WISE-KIRAN);
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the roadmap for expanding women's participation in emerging science and technology domains in the coming years?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (b): Under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), the Department has established 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) in leading academic institutions across the country to promote research, innovation, and technology development in frontier areas, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Quantum Technologies, Semiconductors, and Cybersecurity. The mission provides an inclusive ecosystem that encourages and enables the participation of women researchers, faculty, students, innovators, and entrepreneurs in research, skill development, innovation, startup activities, and international collaborations.

(c) The number of school girls who have benefitted under the Vigyan Jyoti Scheme across the country during the last three years is given below:

| S. No. | Financial Year | Number of girls benefitted |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1.     | 2023-24        | 23642                      |
| 2.     | 2024-25        | 29443                      |
| 3.     | 2025-26        | 29934                      |

(d) to (e): The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has established an institutional mechanism under the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)-KIRAN scheme to support

mentorship and career progression of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), following a life-cycle approach from school education to research and leadership. The Vigyan Jyoti programme encourages meritorious girls studying in Classes IX-XII to pursue higher education and careers in STEM, particularly in areas where the participation of women is low. At the research level, the WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD) programme supports women to pursue research in basic and applied sciences, while the WISE-Post Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF) and WISE-Societal Challenges with Opportunities (WISE-SCOPE) programmes support women in pursuing post-doctoral research in STEM disciplines. The Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights & Innovation (WIDUSHI) programme enables senior women scientists to continue their scientific and research careers. The WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR) programme provides one-year on-the-job training in the field of Intellectual Property Rights to enhance professional skills and career opportunities. In addition, DST provides institutional support through the Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence (CURIE) programme to strengthen research infrastructure and facilities in women's institutions, thereby promoting women's participation in research and development.

(f) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) continues to promote women's participation in emerging areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through various components of the WISE-KIRAN scheme. The strengthening and scope of these initiatives is considered from time to time, based on programme requirements, emerging national priorities, and the availability of funds and budgetary support.

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