

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1785
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26/07/2017**

WOMEN SCIENTIST SCHEME

†1785. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY *विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of cases of irregularities and nepotism have been reported in selection of candidates for the women scientist scheme, a programme which defeat its very purpose;
- (b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted/being conducted in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(श्री वाई. एस. चौधरी)

(a) No, Madam. There is no complaint or irregularity reported in the selection of Women Scientist Scheme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). This scheme provides career opportunities which include fellowship and/or research grant to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. There are three major components of Women Scientist Scheme namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) professional. All these three components of Women Scientist Scheme are looked after & monitored by Subject Expert Committees which comprise of eminent scientists, academicians and practitioners. The applicants, who apply for research projects for budgetary support under WOS are subjected to rigorous examination by these experts who are luminaries in their areas of specialization and are also impartial and unbiased. The selection purely based on credentials of the candidate and merit of the proposed research work. Thus the programmes are running successfully as per its mandate. About 4000 women scientists who had a break in their career, primarily due to familial responsibilities, are now in mainstream Science & Technology and are either working as bench level scientists or gainfully employed or have even started their own consultancy.

(b)& (c): Do not arise.
