

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.850
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2017**

WOMEN IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

850. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) the number of women in scientific institutions and in areas of Scientific Research and Development (R&D) in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the number of women participation in this field of education; and
- (c) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of women scientists in the country?

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) As per the latest available statistics, as on April 1, 2015 there were 77,706 women employed in R&D establishments out of which 39,389 were engaged in Research and Development (R&D) activities, including those in scientific institutions in the country.

(b) & (c): To improve the number of women in scientific institutions and in areas of scientific research the government has launched several schemes/programs such as KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing) to provide career opportunities including fellowship to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering; CURIE (Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities) Program to develop research facilities and infrastructure for promoting quality education in women-only University in Science & Technology (S&T) and Bio-Care Scheme (Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation) and National Women Bio-Scientist Award for career development of employed/unemployed women Scientists especially in the field of Biotechnology. The other schemes/steps to improve the women participation in S&T include Competitive Grant Scheme, DBT-JRF, DBT SRF, DBT-Wellcome Trust Fellowships, giving a relaxation of 5 years in terms of the upper age limit to women candidates to be eligible for all the CSIR Fellowships (JRF/SRF)/ Research Associate(RA) for pursuing doctoral and postdoctoral research.
