

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2063
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7/3/2018**

WOMEN SCIENTISTS

**2063. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of Indian women scientists, engineers and technologists across the country, State/UT-wise;**
- (b) whether the percentage of Indian women scientists, engineers and technologists is still less as compared to male scientists, engineers and technologists, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government is planning/has planned any fellowship programme with foreign countries especially for women in Science and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) 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) & (b): Yes Madam. As per available statistics, 39,389 (13.9%) women out of the total 2.83 lakhs scientists, engineers & technologists were employed in the R&D establishments across the country. However, the department does not maintain state/UT-wise data. The reasons are family responsibilities, cultural and societal constraints often affect research career of women scientists and academicians in Science and Technology (S&T) domain, thus forcing them to either take a break or opt out of career. Pursuing scientific research career along with socio-cultural responsibilities often becomes a major challenge for women scientists, engineers and technologists.

(c) & (d): To encourage women professionals in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM), the Ministry has taken various steps to enhance their research capacities and capabilities like launching a Indo-US fellowship for women in STEMM field to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A, Women centric schemes and programs under the ambit of Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) initiative, Bio-technology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (Bio-Care) for career development of employed / unemployed women scientists; apart from providing relaxation of 5 years in terms of upper age limit to women candidate to be eligible for all the fellowships(JRF/SRF)/research associate-ships awarded by CSIR for perusing doctoral and post doctoral research.
