

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.728
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7/2/2018**

TASKFORCE ON WOMEN RESEARCHERS

†728. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any taskforce for the development of talent of the women in the field of scientific research;
- (b) whether the said taskforce constituted in respect of women has submitted its reports to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to include women talent in scientific research in the country; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

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) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): Government of India set up a Task Force on Women in Science in the year 2005. The Task Force had members representing different disciplines of science, institutions and different regions of the country. After 10 meetings, Task Force submitted its report in 2010-11. One of the mandates of Task Force was to suggest measures to motivate girls to take up S&T for higher education and develop a scientific temper and awareness. In this regard, Task Force specifically recommended summer/winter science camps for girls who have opted for science, well-planned role model programme with successful women scientists and special fellowship scheme for girl toppers in university examinations. The Task Force also recommended constitution of Standing Committee under the Ministry of Science & Technology to take proactive measures to correct any imbalances that still persisted and hindered women in science. Department of Science and Technology thus constituted 'Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science' in 2015-16 to recommend special measures to ensure growth of women in science and to design programmes specifically for fostering, utilizing and supporting women in science and thus reduce the gender gap.

(d) & (e): Department of Science and Technology (DST), through its 'Women Scientist Scheme (WOS)' provides career opportunities 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 WOS, namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for research projects that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. Further, DST has conceived and launched a Pilot Project during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering. Twelve premier academic institutions from different geographical locations are involved at the pilot project stage. Under this Pilot Project, 21 days residential programme for meritorious girls studying in Class XI and is envisaged that encompasses various activities in line with the recommendations made by the Task Force.
