

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.731
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7/2/2018

RESEARCH AMONG WOMEN RESEARCHERS

731. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any programme to encourage women scientists in research activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to encourage women entrepreneurship under start-up India, stand-up India in Science and Technology department; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) 'Women Scientist Scheme' of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) provides career opportunities which includes 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. 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 projects in research 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. The monthly fellowship amount for women having M.Sc, M.Phil/M.Tech and Ph.D degrees is Rs.30,000/-, Rs.40,000/- and Rs.55,000/- respectively. In 2017-18, DST initiated 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Further, Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (Bio-CARE) for women Scientists of Department of Biotechnology is aimed at career development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists. The scheme is open for all areas of Life Science / Biology.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Department of Science and Technology has taken few initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurship under Start-up India-Stand up India. In the year 2014, DST and Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) along with Anita Borg Institute, USA, started 'Women Entrepreneurship Quest (WEQ)', which is a unique program designed to promote and showcase early-stage technology ventures that are founded or led by women entrepreneurs. The program is one of its kinds to be organized in the country for tapping talented women entrepreneurs in technology. The top 10 winners of WEQ, are awarded fully paid, one week exposure and experiential learning with prominent ecosystem players of Silicon valley which include academic sessions, practice pitching before Venture Capitalists, interaction with mentor network, sessions with successful entrepreneurs from iconic and potential startups, and so on. DST has also supported 6 weeks Women Accelerator Programme-Empower, which has components of strong mentoring and preparedness for fund raising, dedicated exclusively for women entrepreneurs. Another exclusive 4 months long mentorship initiative of DST is "Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE)". Mentorship program conducted through IIT-Delhi and WEE Foundation to empower and encourage women entrepreneurs by training them in entrepreneurship skills, mentoring and enabling them to convert their idea(s) into successful business models.
