

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.210  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18/7/2018**

**WOMEN SCIENTISTS**

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

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

- (a) the number of women scientists working in various research institutions, State/Union Territory-wise;**
- (b) whether there is a shortage of women scientists in the country or women are lagging behind in this field;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of women scientists;**
- (e) whether there is any provision for providing special facilities for women scientists in laboratories/institutions keeping in view their domestic difficulties;**
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of women scientists in the country?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER  
OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)  
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री**

**(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)**

- (a) As per the latest available statistics, 39,389 women scientists are working in various research institutions across the country. However, the Department does not maintain state/UT- wise data.**
- (b) to (g): No Madam. There is neither shortage of women scientists in the country nor they are lagging behind in the S&T field. However, their number is less as compared to male counterparts in this field. The Government has taken various corrective measures to enhance the participation of women scientists like launching a Indo-US fellowship for women in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) 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 pursuing doctoral and post doctoral research.**

**Keeping in view the domestic difficulties, provisions are made by the institutes to provide special facilities like day care centre/crèche for children of women scientists and common room facilities, Maternity leave, and Child Care Leave etc. Preferential hostel and transport facility to women researchers/students/employees, flexible working hours, work from home facility is also made available in special cases. Institutes have constituted special committees that conduct awareness programs on regular basis so that women are aware, where to fall back on, in case of any difficulties faced pertaining to gender related issues.**

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