

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3321
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/7/2019**

Women in Scientific Institutions

3321. 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 areas of Scientific Research and Development (R&D) and in Scientific Institution under the Ministry in the country; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the number of women participation in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field of education and to increase the number of women as STEM experts in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री
डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन**

(a) According to Official Statistics available as on 01 April 2015, 39,389 women scientists are directly engaged in R&D activities at various Research & Development (R&D) establishments. Out of 39,389 women scientists, 13,313 women are in S&T institutions; 14,700 are in higher education and 11,376 women are in industrial sector.

(b) 'Women Scientist Scheme' under KIRAN is a flagship programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) that provides career opportunities including fellowships 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 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. 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, DST has conceived and launched Pilot of new programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering. 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. Under 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme' the women only Universities are being supported for development of research infrastructure and creation of state-of-the-art research laboratories which also enhances women's participation in Research & Development activities in S&T domain. The Expert Committees in DST have balanced representation of gender and age.
