

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2365  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.3.2023**

**FEMALE RESEARCHERS**

**2365. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:**

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

- (a) the details of the total number of female researchers including the percentage of total researchers in the field of science and technology;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the number of female researchers in the country is much lower than in advanced countries, if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to address the issue;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enhance the incentives and scholarships for females to increase the number of female researchers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

- (a) As per the latest available R&D statistics, the total number of female researchers (FTE) is 56747 which is 16.6% of total researchers (FTE) in the country.
- (b) Yes Sir. Government is aware that the number of female researchers in the country is much lower than that in the advanced countries. The government has taken several steps to increase the number of female researchers in the

country which includes implementation of women scientist specific schemes of Department of Science and Technology (DST) to provide opportunities to women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career under its three components namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for research that entail S&T interventions for societal benefit, and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) for internship in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). The 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE)' Programme of DST provides support for development of research infrastructure in women universities to encourage women's participation in R&D activities. Another new initiative, 'Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)' aims to transform institutions for more gender sensitive approach and inclusiveness with ultimate goal to improve the gender equity in STEMM (Science, Technology Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine). The WISE-Post Doctoral Fellowship Programme has been initiated to support research in basic and applied sciences for women of age group of 27-60 years having doctoral degrees. The Science and Engineering Research Borad (SERB), a statutory body under DST has been implementing "SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)" to mitigate the gender disparity in science and engineering research funding in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and research and development (R&D) laboratories; "SERB-POWER Mobility Grant" for capacity building, knowledge, and skill enhancement of women scientists and technologists; "SERB Women Excellence Research Grant" for young women scientists (below age 40), etc.

(c) & (d) There is no such proposal to enhance the incentives and scholarships for female researchers, as of now. However, the government has been making concerted efforts to increase the opportunities for women researchers through implementation of different schemes/programmes such as SERB-POWER scheme and WISE-PDF scheme of DST, etc. launched recently.

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