

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2260**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021**

**Science Education for Women**

**2260. SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:**

**Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the share of women in scientific organisations and in other premier institutions of higher learning remains far less satisfactory and needs to be re-energised right from the elementary stage of school education;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to introduce the science scholarship scheme for meritorious girls from the first year of the secondary stage of schooling to increase the transition rates of girls from secondary to post-secondary stage of education; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) : As per “Research & Development Statistics at a Glance-2019-20” report of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), as on April 01, 2018, 16.6% women are directly engaged in Research & Development (R&D) activities in R&D establishments in the country. Further, as per AISHE report 2019-20, at the under-graduate level, out of the 47.55 lakh students enrolled in science stream, 51.7% are female compared to 48.3% male. Similarly, at post graduate level and PhD level as well, the representation of women in science streams is respectively 63.4% and 48.4%.
- (b) to (d) : Government of India has taken various steps to increase the transition rate of women in the field Science and Technology from secondary stage of schooling to post- secondary stage of education. Some of which are listed below:
  - VigyanJyoti: This program was started in the year 2019-20 to encourage meritorious girl students of Class IX-XII to pursue education and career in science and technology

particularly in the areas where women are under represented. Various activities such as Science Camps, special lectures/classes, career counselling, counselling of students-parents, interaction with role models, visit to nearby scientific institutions and industries, access to the Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), etc are conducted in the programme. Apart from these activities, scholarship is also given to the girls of Class XI-XII enrolled under Vigyan Jyoti.

- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is running ‘National Talent Search Examination (NTSE)’ wherein students studying in class 10<sup>th</sup> can participate and qualify in the NTSE.
- Government has increased gender balance in undergraduate programmes of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) from about 8% in 2016-17 to 19.83% in 2020-21 by creating supernumerary seats.
- Pragati Scholarship Scheme: The scheme was started in the year 2014 for meritorious girl students to encourage them to pursue higher education.
- Post Doctoral Fellowship for women.
- P.G. Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child.
- There are many other schemes which aim at encouraging scholars to pursue higher education like Saksham Scholarship Scheme, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme, AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF), BSR Faculty Fellowship, Emeritus Fellowship, Dr.D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship, Junior Research Fellowship in Science, Humanities and Social Sciences etc.

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