

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2988  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022**

**Women Opting STEM**

**2988. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:  
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women in the country opting for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in 2019-20 ;
- (b) the number of such women pursuing doctoral studies at major science institutes in the country ;
- (c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government for recruitment of women graduates in STEM related jobs;
- (d) whether there is disparity in number of female professors in major science institutes as compared with male professors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

- (a) & (b) As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20, the total numbers of female students enrolled at various levels (UG, PG, M.Phil & Ph.D) of higher education in STEM fields across the country is 43,65,928. Out of this, 41,296 females are enrolled in Ph.D.
- (c) to (e) As per AISHE 2019-20, the number of female and male teachers in STEM field is 1,98,514 and 3,53,259 respectively. In order to promote more women in STEM field, Government has taken a number of initiatives.

The enrolment of female students in B.Tech programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has increased from 8% in the year 2016 to 19.72% in the year 2021, by creating supernumerary seats. Similarly the enrolment of female students in B.Tech programmes in National Institutes of Technology (NITs) has increased to nearly 23%. This makes more women job ready and it also increases the pool of quality female candidates for professorship.

Further, Pragati Scholarship Scheme of Department of Higher Education is being implemented by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), under which a total of 10,000 scholarships are disbursed every year from the year 2020-21 among meritorious girl students for pursuing technical education at degree/diploma level in STEM field in 23 States/UTs. In addition to this AICTE is providing scholarship to

all eligible girl students from remaining 13 States/UTs which includes States from North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh etc. An amount of Rs. 50,000/- per annum is given to candidate as per this scheme.

Department of Science and Technology has also taken several steps to increase the participation of women in STEM for higher education. This includes implementation of women exclusive schemes like 'Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN)', Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine), 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE)', "Vigyan Jyoti" for meritorious girl students of Class 9 to 12, 'Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)'. In addition, the Department of Science and Technology has launched the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scheme to enhance rates of attachment of talented youths to undertake higher education in science intensive programmes by providing Scholarships/Fellowships for various age-group of women.