

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4188
ANSWERED ON 26/03/2025**

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN STEM

4188. Ms SAYANI GHOSH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes and policies that have been introduced to increase women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and careers;**
- (b) the details of the total financial assistance that has been allocated for women-led research projects under Government schemes;**
- (c) the data on the percentage of women enrolled in STEM courses at undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels in India during the last five years;**
- (d) the percentage of women employed in STEM-related fields in Government and private sectors; and**
- (e) the number of women holding senior research positions and leadership roles in premier scientific institutions such as ISRO, DRDO, IITs and CSIR etc.?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF 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) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing a comprehensive scheme 'Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)' to encourage women's participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields. The WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD) program supports women pursuing research in basic and applied sciences. WISE-Post Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF) and WISE-Societal Challenges with Opportunities (WISE-SCOPE) programs encourage women to engage in post-doctoral research, lab-based studies and translational research from lab to land respectively.

The WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR) provides one-year, on-the-job training to build expertise in Intellectual Property Rights. In addition, the Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights & Innovation program (WIDUSHI) enables senior women scientists retiring in a year or already retired in continuing and advancing their scientific careers.

Besides, fellowship programs, DST also provides institutional/ policies support through initiatives such as:

- i. CURIE (Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence), which strengthens research infrastructure in women's institutions to enhance participation in Research & Development.**
- ii. GATI (Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions), which encourages institutions to implement evidence-based policies to retain women in STEM careers up to leadership positions.**
- iii. Science & Technology for Women (STW), which enhances women's livelihoods and social entrepreneurship through Women Technology Parks (WTPs).**

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) support DBT-BioCARE Fellowship programme which aims to increase participation of women scientists in Biotechnology and allied area.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) offers doctoral and postdoctoral research fellowships to support students in advancing research in science and technology. To encourage more women to pursue careers in STEM fields, including engineering, medical, and pharmaceutical sciences, CSIR provides a five-year relaxation in the upper age limit for female candidates applying for research opportunities.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched a Pragati Scholarship Scheme exclusively for undergraduate female students to provide an opportunity for higher education and empowering women through technical education.

(b) The total financial assistance allocated for women-led research projects under Government schemes during the financial year 2024-2025 is Rs. 502.47 Cr.

(c) The percentage of women enrolled in STEM courses at undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels in India during the last five years (2018-2022) is around 43.2 percent as per All India Survey on Higher Education, GoI.

(d) The percentage of women employed in STEM-related fields in the Government and private sector is around 18.6% as per Research & Development Statistics -2023, DST.

(e) The number of women holding senior research positions and leadership roles in premier scientific institutions such as ISRO, DRDO, CSIR and DST autonomous Institutions is around 1062.
