

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5992
ANSWERED ON 01/04/2026

WOMEN BENEFITED FROM SCHEMES

†5992. DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:

SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

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

- (a) the details of the ongoing schemes related to science and technology in different parts of the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;**
- (b) the details of number of people particularly women benefited from these schemes and got helped in starting their own business and State and district-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;**
- (c) the State-wise and district-wise details thereof;**
- (d) the positive steps taken/being taken/proposes to be taken by the Government for smooth functioning of these schemes and to make them accessible to the people in rural areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra and to ensure the benefits of these schemes for all the people; and**
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?**

ANSWER

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

(a) The Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing a wide range of schemes across India, including Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, to strengthen research, innovation, and inclusive participation in science. Key initiatives such as the Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) promote women's participation through fellowships like WISE-PhD, WISE-Post Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF), WISE-SCOPE, WIDUSHI, and WISE-IPR, supporting careers from doctoral to senior research levels. The INSPIRE Programme nurtures talent from school to postdoctoral stages through components like INSPIRE-MANAK and INSPIRE-SHE. Innovation and entrepreneurship are encouraged through National Initiative for Developing

and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), including Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators and Startups (PRAYAS) for prototype development. Research infrastructure is strengthened via schemes like Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) and Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), along with facilities such as Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF), Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI) and Mega Facilities for Basic Research (MFBR). Thematic programmes including State Science and Technology Programme (SSTP), Science and Heritage Research Initiative (SHRI), Science and Technology for Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) and Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI) promote region-specific and interdisciplinary research, while outreach efforts by National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) have supported 45 projects in Madhya Pradesh and 11 in Maharashtra. Under the Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division, during the last three years, one project in Maharashtra was supported under the Strengthening, Upscaling and Nurturing Innovations for Livelihood (SUNIL) programme, while two projects in Madhya Pradesh were supported under the Science and Technology for Women (STW) programme. National missions such as National Supercomputing Mission, National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, and National Quantum Mission aim to advance emerging technologies, while the Department of Biotechnology runs Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (Bio-CARe) for career development in biotechnology. Additionally, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) supports broad-based and focused R&D through grants like Advanced Research Grant (ARG), Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG), Inclusivity Research Grant (IRG), Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR), National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (NPDF) and Ramanujan Fellowship, alongside prestigious recognitions such as the National Science Chair and JC Bose Grant, having funded 52 projects in Madhya Pradesh and 117 in Maharashtra, thereby significantly contributing to scientific capacity building and innovation nationwide.

(b) to (c): The Government has implemented a wide range of initiatives to promote women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), with measurable outcomes over the past decade. These schemes have significantly contributed to supporting women at different stages of their academic and professional journeys, including helping many restarts or establish their careers in research and development. The details of

number of women benefited during the last three years from these schemes are given below:

State/UTs	Vigyan Jyoti	WISE-PhD	WISE-PDF	CURIE	INSPIRE-MANAK	SHE	INSPIRE Fellowship	INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship
Andaman and Nicobar	315	1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	2669	0	2	1	5871	1	35	1
Arunachal Pradesh	974	0	1	0	13	0	3	0
Assam	3644	11	4	0	177	49	59	1
Bihar	3352	0	0	0	3225	170	6	0
Chandigarh	303	4	9	1	168	4	25	0
Chhattisgarh	3861	2	0	2	4353	522	10	2
Dadar, Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	588	0	0	0	32	1	0	0
Delhi	595	12	33	2	300	75	76	19
Goa	304	2	3	0	79	4	17	2
Gujarat	4888	6	6	0	1878	95	45	3
Haryana	4075	1	1	0	1432	93	23	3
Himachal Pradesh	2704	0	2	1	755	208	23	2
Jammu and Kashmir	2425	10	12	0	1506	23	48	4
Jharkhand	3569	1	1	0	2474	12	11	3
Karnataka	3608	10	12	2	11213	33	103	26
Kerala	2790	26	12	7	567	630	86	6
Ladakh	499	0	0	0	22	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	4056	9	4	2	2949	834	41	3
Maharashtra	5008	20	17	2	3455	232	86	22
Manipur	1220	5	1	0	7	123	3	0
Meghalaya	1093	0	0	0	17	42	6	1
Mizoram	259	2	3	0	13	6	7	0
Nagaland	301	1	1	0	1	14	2	0

State/UTs	Vigyan Jyoti	WISE-PhD	WISE-PDF	CURIE	INSPIRE-MANAK	SHE	INSPIRE Fellowship	INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship
Odisha	3662	5	4	1	5691	52	39	2
Puducherry	1195	1	0	0	81	3	5	0
Punjab	4072	9	14	2	673	105	63	10
Rajasthan	4773	4	1	1	10107	3128	25	2
Sikkim	454	0	0	0	33	0	4	0
Tamil Nadu	0	21	14	10	2198	24	127	8
Telangana	2415	13	22	2	4596	32	81	6
Tripura	832	3	0	0	94	1	6	0
Uttarakhand	2661	8	7	0	2686	486	42	1
Uttar Pradesh	6672	10	16	2	7531	7574	87	14
West Bengal	3181	18	25	0	28	333	91	12

The details of number of women benefited from NIDHI-PRAYAS scheme who got supported in starting their start-up/business in the last ten years is given below:

State/UTs	No. of NIDHI-PRAYAS Beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh	23
Assam	3
Bihar	5
Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Delhi	15
Goa	2
Gujarat	27
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu and Kashmir	5
Jharkhand	1
Karnataka	100
Kerala	45
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	66
Manipur	1
Odisha	25
Punjab	1

State/UTs	No. of NIDHI-PRAYAS Beneficiaries
Rajasthan	17
Tamil Nadu	95
Telangana	44
Uttarakhand	6
Uttar Pradesh	24
West Bengal	6

The state-wise and district-wise number of women benefited from NIDHI-PRAYAS scheme in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are given below:

State	District	No. of NIDHI-PRAYAS Beneficiaries
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	3
	Gwalior	2
	Indore	1
	Ujjain	1
Maharashtra	Amravati	2
	Aurangabad	2
	Dhule	1
	Kolhapur	1
	Mumbai City	22
	Nagpur	2
	Nashik	3
	Pune	28
	Raigad	2
	Satara	1
	Thane	2

(d) to (e): The Government has undertaken a wide range of proactive and coordinated measures to ensure the smooth functioning of STEM-related schemes and to make them accessible to people across the country including rural areas of Maharashtra. These efforts focus on expanding access, improving transparency, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring inclusive participation so that the benefits of these initiatives reach all sections of society. To enhance accessibility and participation, the Government has promoted broad-based inclusion by extending research funding and opportunities to universities, colleges, and institutions in both urban and rural regions. Special emphasis has been placed on enabling institutions in underserved areas to actively participate in national programmes. A hub-and-spoke model has been encouraged, wherein leading institutions mentor and

collaborate with smaller or rural institutions, thereby improving their research capabilities and access to resources.

Digitalization has been a key step toward ensuring efficiency and transparency in the implementation of schemes. Online portals have been developed and upgraded to facilitate the submission, monitoring, and evaluation of proposals, making processes more user-friendly and accessible even in remote areas. Enhancements to platforms such as the INSPIRE-MANAK portal including chatbot support, improved data synchronization, and simplified nomination processes have further reduced barriers for students and schools, especially in rural regions.

The Government has also focused on strengthening infrastructure and research facilities across the country. Through schemes like FIST and PURSE, financial support has been provided to institutions for upgrading laboratories and acquiring modern equipment. Additionally, shared facilities such as SAIF and SATHI have been established to provide access to advanced scientific instruments for institutions that may not have such resources, thereby ensuring equitable access for rural and smaller institutions.

Capacity building has been another major area of intervention. Training programmes for teachers and researchers, including initiatives under Inspiring India in Research Innovation and STEM Education (iRISE) have been implemented to improve teaching quality, promote innovation-driven learning, and strengthen research skills. Early-career researchers are being supported through mentorship, industry exposure, and skill development opportunities, enabling them to contribute effectively to scientific advancement. Outreach and engagement activities have been expanded to increase awareness and participation. Science exhibitions, competitions, mentorship programmes, and institutional visits have been organized to inspire students and provide them with exposure to real-world STEM applications.

So far, these steps have resulted in improved participation from rural institutions, greater transparency in scheme implementation, enhanced infrastructure and research capacity, and increased access to mentorship and learning resources. Together, these measures have created a more inclusive and robust ecosystem that ensures the effective delivery of Government schemes and equitable access to their benefits for people across the country including rural areas of Maharashtra.
