

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1674
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2026**

WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) PROGRAMME

1674. SMT. MAHIMA KUMARI MEWAR:

SMT. MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

DR. K SUDHAKAR:

SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

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

- (a) the progress made under the Women in Science and Engineering–Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (WISE-KIRAN) Programme towards promoting the participation and retention of women in science, technology and innovation;**
- (b) the details of number of women scientists, researchers and technologists supported under the various schemes of the WISE-KIRAN Programme during the last three years, component-wise and year-wise;**
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen women's participation, leadership and career advancement in research, innovation and emerging strategic technology sectors, including Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technology and space science; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to expand the coverage, funding support and institutional partnerships under the WISE-KIRAN Programme to encourage greater participation of women in STEM disciplines, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) The Women in Science and Engineering–Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (WISE-KIRAN) Programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has made significant progress in promoting the participation and retention of women in science, technology and innovation (STI). Through its various components, the programme provides comprehensive support to women at different stages of their STEM careers by offering fellowships, research grants, scholarships, internships, capacity-building initiatives and institutional support. The programme has benefited over 1,00,000 girl students across 300 districts in 35 States and Union Territories, supported more than 4,000 women scientists through fellowships and research grants, and strengthened around 70 women-only

institutions with advanced research and development infrastructure. These interventions have enhanced opportunities for women's education, research, career progression and leadership, thereby contributing to greater participation and retention of women in the national STEM ecosystem.

(b) The component-wise and year-wise details of women scientists, researchers and technologists supported under the various components of the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)-KIRAN scheme are given below:

Program Name	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
WISE-PhD	3	136	67
WISE-PDF	24	117	98
WISE-SCOPE	-	-	61
WIDUSHI	-	9	14
WISE-IPR	-	94	-
CURIE	4	11	13

(c) to (d): The Government has undertaken several measures to strengthen women's participation, leadership and career advancement in research, innovation and emerging strategic technology sectors, including Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technologies and space sciences through programmes like WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD), WISE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF), WISE-Societal Challenges with Opportunities (WISE-SCOPE), Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights & Innovations (WIDUSHI), WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR) and capacity building and leadership interventions. Leadership training intervention was made for early and mid-career women scientists to empower them for taking decision-making roles. The program directly trained 168 women scientists across space and allied sciences. This intervention has further empowered over 3,000 additional women in different academic research institutions. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) further advances this objective through programmes such as the Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (BioCARE) Programme, research fellowships and entrepreneurship initiatives, which help women scientists re-enter research, establish independent careers and translate scientific discoveries into innovation-led enterprises. The Government is also committed to further strengthening the WISE-KIRAN Programme to encourage greater participation of women in STEM disciplines. The programme is continuously reviewed and enhanced to expand support for women at different stages of their academic and research careers through fellowships, research grants, capacity-building initiatives and institutional partnerships.
