

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2376

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

- (a) whether women participation in the field of research and development in Science and Technology is very limited in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to implement schemes to enhance the participation of women in science and technological research in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the number of women scientists supported under such schemes during each of the last three years;
- (d) the details and number of women's universities supported during the last three years and currently supported by the Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities along with the expenditure on the above programme for each State, including Odisha during above period; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Government to encourage women in the field of research and development in Science and Technology in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) In India, women participation in extramural Research & Development (R&D) projects increased significantly to 31% in 2009-10 from 13% in 2000-01, primarily due to initiative undertaken by the Government in S&T sector. Also, as on 1 April 2010, there were 66,302 full-time equivalent of women employed in R&D establishments and out of this 27,532 were directly engaged in R&D activities whereas 13,660 women scientists were employed in the Institutional sector, 2,873 in Higher Education and 10,999 in Industrial sector.

(b) & (c): To enhance participation of women in science and technological research in the country, Department of Science & Technology (DST) had launched a Women Scientist Scheme in the year 2003, primarily for women having academic background in science & technology (S&T) who had a break-in their career, to provide opportunities to them to return to the mainstream and work as bench-level scientists. Under this scheme, women scientists, technologists and researchers have been encouraged to pursue research in frontier areas of S&T and on problems of societal relevance besides taking up S&T based internship leading to self employment or entrepreneurship. Three categories of scholarships with research grants were set up for the purpose namely, Scholarships for Research in Basic/Applied Science (WOS-A), Scholarship for Research in S&T based Societal Programme (WOS-B) and Internship for the Self-Employment (WOS-C).

Number of Women Scientists supported by DST under the scheme in last the three years and the current year is given in the following Table:

Sl. No.	Schemes	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	(till Feb '15)					
1.	Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A)	252	214	239	280	733
2.	Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B)	27	35	47	65	147
3.	Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C)	71	83	73	95	251
	GRAND TOTAL	350	332	359	440	1481

(d) The Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme was started in the year 2009 with the intention to promote enrolment at Post Graduate level and beyond including research activities in 'Women

Universities' of the country. The main objective of the CURIE programme is to create state-of-art infrastructure to carry out cutting-edge research. DST has also started second phase of CURIE in 2012-13. The details of women's universities supported during the last three years and the current year under the CURIE programme along with State-wise expenditure are as follows. No proposal was received from Odisha for this programme as so far there is no functional women university in the State.

S. No.	Name of Women University	State	Sanctioned Amount, Rupees in lakhs
1.	Avinashilingam Women University, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	555
2.	Banasthali University,	Banasthali Rajasthan	520
3.	SNDT Women University,	Mumbai Maharashtra	309
4.	Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	309
5.	Karnataka State Women University, Bijapur	Karnataka	309
6.	Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal	Tamil Nadu	309
	Total Sanctioned Amount		2311

(e) DST has launched Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) programme for Women in Science in the year 2014-15. KIRAN envisages a more holistic approach to encourage women scientists and subsumes the existing programmes for women scientists and technologists.