

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3865
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHEMES FOR WOMEN
Noor Smt. Mausam

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

- (a) the salient features of the Science & Technology Schemes for Women;
- (b) the achievements of the said schemes in providing new opportunities for gainful employment of women especially in rural areas; and
- (c) the status of implementation of these schemes in various States including West Bengal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): The Government has taken initiatives to ensure participation of women in the field of science and technology through implementation of suitable gender enabling programmes, covering Women Scientists Scholarship Scheme, even after break in service to return to mainstream science. Under this scheme, support is provided to women scientists to pursue research in various areas of science and technology and to address problems of societal relevance, and also to take up S&T-based internship, leading to self-employment Under Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme for Women Scientists (Bio-CARe) support for women scientists, both employed and unemployed, is also provided for capacity building in an effort to take up R&D projects.

Under the schemes `Science and Technology for Women and `Technology Development and Utilization Programme for Women`, support is provided to promote gender equality and empower women through application of science and technology, research & development, transfer of proven technologies and adaptation of technologies to enhance the socio-economic development of women, especially in rural areas. This programme, through its innovative approach, gender sensitivity and involvement of S&T based voluntary organizations, having strong linkages at the grass root level, had impacted women scientists and the community. The emphasis is on creation of replicable models/systems, based on sustainable technology packages, resources, and local skills.

So far 2942 women scientists have benefited in implementing various projects under the schemes. Eighteen women technology parks were set up in different agro climatic regions including West Bengal, to act as window for providing information, creating awareness, imparting training for appropriate technologies leading to skill upgradation were set up. More than 35000 women have benefited directly or indirectly through these interventions.

In the State of West Bengal, a women technology park has been set up at Sagar Islands where facilities are created for training in food processing, construction activities, land based farm activities, livestock, agri-horti farm management, bee keeping and entrepreneurship development Around 1510 women continue to benefit from this intervention.