

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5490
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/3/2018**

KIRAN

**5490. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is running a programme called Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) and if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;
- (b) the salient features of the said programme;
- (c) the total amount disbursed under the said scheme since its inception till date, year-wise;
- (d) the number of women scientists working in various research institutions and technology departments/agencies of the Government; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the participation of women scientists in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER
OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री और पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री

(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)

(a) Yes, Madam. In the year 2014-15, Department of Science and Technology (DST) started Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme to provide various career opportunities to women scientists by bringing women-specific programmes/schemes under one umbrella. It is primarily aimed at bringing gender parity in Science & Technology (S&T) sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development (R&D) domain through various programs. The objectives of KIRAN scheme are as follows:

1. To retain women in science and help re-entry of women scientist after a break into career paths within S&T sector.
2. Enhance the representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
3. To implement programmes under different categories keeping in view the individual capability, competency and aptitude in the context of basic research, societal development and self employment.
4. To provide avenues for capacity building, knowledge and skill enhancement both at national and global level.
5. To provide career substance through mobility initiative especially to overcome the issues and challenges on account of relocation faced by employed women scientists.

(b) KIRAN is a holistic scheme that includes various programmes to address different challenges faced by women scientists and technologists in S&T domain. Gender mainstreaming of women in S&T sector having break in career is brought about through three components of Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) [WOS-A for conducting research in Basic and Applied Sciences; WOS-B for projects in research that encompass S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and WOS-C that enables them to become intellectual property Rights (IPR) professional. In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component was introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST also launched 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) under KIRAN to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Further, DST has conceived a new programme '*Vigyan Jyoti*' during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering and launched a Pilot initiative in 14 premier academic institutions from different geographical locations. Under this Pilot Project, residential programme of 3 weeks duration is envisaged for meritorious girls studying in Class XI that encompasses various activities aimed at mentoring and motivating them to pursue higher studies and careers in science & engineering. Further, institutional support is also provided through Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme to facilitate & augment women's participation in R&D activities in S&T Domain.

(c) Since the inception of KIRAN, around Rs. 235 crores (Rs.44 crores in 2014-15; Rs.56 crores in 2015-16; Rs.60 crores in 2016-17 and Rs.75 crores in 2017-18) has been disbursed in various programmes.

(d) According to Official Statistics available, as on 01.04.2015, about 13,313 women scientists are working in various research institutions and technology departments/ agencies of the Government.

(e) Under KIRAN Scheme, several women-specific programmes are being implemented in order to improve women's participation in S&T domain through gender mainstreaming, overseas opportunity, addressing relocation issue of working women scientists, self employment, improvement of research facilities in women universities, training & skill development, etc. 'Women Scientist Scheme' under KIRAN provides career opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. There are three major components of Women Scientist Scheme namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for projects in research that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component has been introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST initiated 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (Bio-CARe) for women Scientists of Department of Biotechnology is aimed at career development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists. The scheme is open for all areas of Life Science/Biology. 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme' of KIRAN has also an important role in enhancing women's participation in Research & Development activities in S&T Domain. In CURIE, budgetary support is extended to women only Universities for development of research infrastructure and creation of state-of-the-art research laboratories. Recently, DST has launched Pilot of new programme '*Vigyan Jyoti*' during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering. Fourteen premier academic institutions from different geographical locations are involved at the pilot project stage. Under this Pilot Project, 21 days residential programme for meritorious girls studying in Class XI is envisaged that encompasses various activities. DST has also constituted 'Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science' in May, 2016 in order to enhance participation of women in S&T sector.
