

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4345
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2019**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHEMES FOR WOMEN

**4345. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to ensure participation of women in the field of science and technology through implementation of suitable gender enabling programmes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the salient features of the Science and Technology Schemes for Women;
- (c) the achievements of the said schemes in providing new opportunities for gainful employment to women especially in rural areas; and
- (d) the status of implementation of these schemes in various States including Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री
डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन**

(a) Yes Sir. In the year 2014-15, Department of Science and Technology (DST) started Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme to promote women scientists. It is primarily aimed at improving gender parity in Science & Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain through various programmes, namely, 'Women Scientist Scheme (WoS)' for women scientists having break in career, 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE)' programme for development of infrastructure and research facilities, 'Mobility Scheme' to address relocation issue of working women scientists and 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine)' to provide international exposure to women scientists. KIRAN Scheme also has capacity building programmes under 'National Program for Training of Women Scientists &

Technologists' working in Government Sector in the fields of research & development, entrepreneurship, managerial skills and leadership. In addition to above, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is also implementing Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE) to enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology research.

(b) The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has various Science and Technology programmes for women. The salient features of these programmes are to bring back women scientists in mainstream science after their career break, provide R&D infrastructure support to women universities, facilitate opportunity of international collaboration, sustain career after relocation and training & skill development. 'Science & Technology for Women' Scheme empowers women at grassroots level through inputs of Science and Technology. The broad objectives of this scheme are:

- (1) To support research, development and knowledge generation with respect to various stages of life cycle of women.
- (2) To promote research, development and adaptation of technology to create gainful employment potential of women, reduce their drudgery, as well as improve working conditions of women in local areas through S&T inputs.
- (3) To improve quality of life as well as promote health and nutrition of women through the application of S&T.

(c) The 'Science & Technology for Women' Scheme is focused on empowering women in livelihood generation through suitable technologies and available natural resources in their native areas, which has led to income generation and creation of livelihood opportunities for them. The scheme is implemented through grant-in-aid projects to S&T based Government and Non-Government Organizations. Besides individual projects, the scheme also focuses on establishing Women Technology Parks (WTPs) that are envisaged to act as a resource centre to train women in rural technologies based on the natural resources for their livelihood and income generation. Around 7,000 women have been trained over last three years through 42 WTPs and individual projects located in different parts of the country.

(d) In last three years, under S&T for Women Scheme, 82 individual projects have been implemented including six (6) in Karnataka, one (1) in Odisha, five (5) in West Bengal and three (3) in Uttar Pradesh. In addition, one (1) WTP in Odisha, two (2) WTPs in West Bengal and four (4) WTPs in Uttar Pradesh have been established. Under 'Women Scientists Scheme (WOS)', 1,377 women scientists and technologists have been supported including eighty three (83) in Karnataka, thirty two (32) in Odisha, eighty five (85) in West Bengal and eighty (80) in Uttar Pradesh in last three years. Forty (40) women scientists got opportunity to visit USA under 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM'. Further, eight (8) women universities have been supported under 'Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE)' Programme including one (1) in Karnataka and one (1) in Odisha. During 2019, Artificial Intelligence facility has also been established in six (6) women universities under CURIE-AI component including one (1) in Karnataka.
