

Department of Science and Technology under Ministry of Science and Technology has been modified/revamped to INSPIRE Award MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) in order (i) to attract young students to study science and pursue research career (ii) to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them thereby giving a thrust to original ideas having potential to cater to societal needs and problems.

(b) Under INSPIRE Award MANAK Scheme, in a financial year, ten (10.0) lakh ideas are being targeted from more than five (05) lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one (1.0) lakh ideas will be shortlisted for an initial award of ₹ 10000/- each, for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea and participation in the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC).

(c) All middle and high schools of the country whether Government, private, semi-private, aided, un-aided are eligible to nominate 2-3 students from their schools, during a financial year, along with all the details including a brief write-up of the idea of the student. The short listing of students for INSPIRE award MANAK is being done by National Innovation Foundation, a autonomous organization of DST, based on the idea submitted by the student.

Fellows under women scientist schemes

293. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women who have been selected as fellows under the Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A), Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C);

(b) whether the fellows under these three schemes have received their stipend amounts regularly and on time and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the basis for selecting the minimum age limit for WOS-A and WOS-B as 27 years and maximum age limit as 57 years; and

(d) whether Government is considering any change in the aforementioned age limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Four thousand forty six women have been benefitted under three components of Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) Since its inception in 2003-04. The component wise details are as follows:↵

Sl. No.	Components of Women Scientists Scheme (WOS)	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A)	2790
2.	Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B)	632
3.	Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C)	624
	TOTAL	4046

(b) The fellows supported through these three components of WOS are receiving their project grant and stipend timely. However, very few fellows sometimes may not receive the grant on time due to various reasons *viz.* not submission of necessary as well as mandatory financial documents on time, incorrect documentation, and so on. Such fellows are promptly given due advice by the Department.

(c) and (d) The mandate of Women Scientists Scheme is to provide opportunities to women who had a break in their career, primarily due to familial responsibilities. The age limit was chosen as in Science and Technology (S&T) domain by 27 years of age, scholars are either able to complete Ph.D or at the final stage of their Ph.D work, if there is no break in their career. In view of this, minimum age to apply in Women Scientists Scheme was kept as 27 years. Moreover, the maximum age to apply for fellowship as CSIR-JRF (Junior Research Fellow) is 28 years and after this there are very few opportunities in S&T system to get fellowship, particularly after a break in career. The maximum age to apply under Women Scientists Scheme is 57 years because the project tenure is of 3 years duration that is it could be completed up to 60 years of age of the beneficiary. This compares well with the existing age of retirement being 60 years. Thus, there is no plan to change minimum and maximum age under Women Scientists Scheme.

Mobility Scheme under KIRAN

294. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features and benefits of the mobility scheme launched under Knowledge, Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing KIRAN;

(b) the details of the number of women who have applied for benefits under the Mobility Scheme; and

(c) the details of the number of women who have received benefits under the scheme?