

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Mobility was launched under Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) programme of Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the aim to address the relocation issue of women scientists and academicians working in regular position in Government organizations. It endeavours to provide opportunities to women scientists who are facing difficulties in pursuing their present job due to relocation to a different city primarily because of social responsibilities.

(b) and (c) Eleven women scientists and academicians applied to avail benefits under mobility component. A Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) comprising of eminent members from multidisciplinary areas was constituted by DST. Out of the eleven applicants, four did not fulfil the eligibility criteria. Five out of the rest seven proposals were found suitable for consideration by the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC). However, all these five applicants declined to resign from their regular positions in their respective organizations to avail mobility benefits, primarily because there is no provision in the present Central Civil Service (CCS) rules for permanent employment in the Central Government once they complete their assignment under the Mobility Scheme.

Percentage of GDP on R&D

295. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is spending a small percentage of its GDP on R&D;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the low spending;
- (c) how it compares with China, South Korea, Indonesia and Philippines in this regard; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to increase it and if so, by how much?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) to (c) As per available latest statistics, India's spending on R&D is 0.69 percent of GDP which is below China (2.0%), South Korea (4.3%) and more than Indonesia (0.1%) and Philippines (0.1%). In most countries, private sector carries out bulk of research and development even if Government play an important role. However, in India, Government is not just the primary source of R&D funding but also a primary user of these funds.