

(d) Increasing percentage of R&D to 2% of the GDP has been a national goal for some time with enhanced participation, in R&D, from private sector.

Women working in mainstream science research institutes

296. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women currently working in the mainstream science research institutions;

(b) the number of women who have availed the services and received grants under Women Scientist Scheme (WOS-A, B and C) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Standing Committee for promoting women in science has been constituted and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, what is the action so far taken by the committee to reduce the gender gap in science research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) According to Official Statistics available as on 01.04.2015, there are 39,389 women scientists directly engaged in R&D activities at various Research and Development (R&D) establishments. Out of 39,389 women scientists, 13,313 women are in S&T institutions, 14,700 are in higher education and 11,376 women are in industrial sector.

(b) Since the inception of Women Scientists Scheme in 2003-04, 4046 women have availed the services of Department of Science and Technology and received grants under Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) under its three components WOS-A, WOS-B and WOS- C). 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

(c) and (d) Department of Science and Technology constituted 'Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science' *vide* Office Memorandum dated 11 March 2016 to recommend special measures to ensure growth of women in science and to design programmes specifically for fostering, utilizing and supporting women in science and thus reduce the gender gap. The committee comprises 16 eminent scientists and academicians of various sectors in Science and Technology domain. Two meetings of Standing Committee have been organized on 16 May 2016 and 2 March 2017. In its first meeting held on 16.05.2016, members of the Standing Committee discussed the issue related to attracting more girls to pursue higher studies and careers in Science and Engineering in order to reduce the gender gap in science research. Subsequently, Department of Science and Technology (DST) has conceived and launched a Pilot Project during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in Science and Engineering. Twelve academic institutions from different geographical locations are involved at the pilot project stage.

Utilization of port land

297. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that major ports in India have a lot of surplus land;
- (b) if so, what is the total land with Bombay Port and how much of it is surplus or unutilized till date;
- (c) what are the plans to use that land in future; and
- (d) the details of proposals, if any, from private sector to utilize the port land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Major Ports do not have surplus land. However, vacant lands in the Ports are utilized as per the land use of the respective port.

(b) and (c) The total land of Mumbai Port Trust is 827.52 hectares (approx.) out of which 53.41 hectares (approx.) is vacant land. Consultant has been appointed by Mumbai Port Trust to prepare master plan for use of this land in future.

(d) There is no proposal with the Mumbai Port Trust from Private Sector to utilize the port land.