

(a) whether Government has prepared Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) programme for encouraging women in the field of science;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allotted for said programme in current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the year 2014-15, Department of Science and Technology (DST) started Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme to encourage women in the field of Science. It is primarily aimed at improving gender parity in Science and Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research and development domain through various programs, namely, Fellowship Schemes for break-in career women scientists [*i.e.* Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic and Applied Sciences, Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C) for internship in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)]. Additionally, Institutional support is provided through Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) program and Women Technology Parks (WTPs). In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component has been introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST launched new program 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' to provide international exposure to women scientists. KIRAN Scheme also has capacity building programs under 'National Program for Training of Women Scientists and Technologists working in Government Sector' in the fields of research and development, entrepreneurship, managerial skills and leadership.

(c) ₹ 75 crore has been allocated for KIRAN scheme in current financial year *i.e.* 2019-20.

Participation of women in scientific research and development

1747. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women scientists working in various research institutions and technology departments/agencies of Government, and their percentage among total number of scientists in these organisations;

(b) the details of the various schemes/ programmes initiated by the Ministry, including KIRAN scheme, to promote gender parity in scientific research and development;

(c) the status of implementation of these scheme in Maharashtra; and

(d) whether the Ministry has plans to introduce any further measures to increase the participation of women in scientific research and development programmes across the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(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. Their percentage is 13.91% among total number of scientists working in these organizations.

(b) The Ministry of Science and Technology has several women centric programmes including KIRAN scheme to provide gender parity in scientific research and development. In the year 2014-15, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) started Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KTRAN) scheme to provide various career opportunities to women scientists and technologists through its programs, namely, Women Scientists Scheme [*i.e.* Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A), Women Scientist Scheme-B(WOS-B) and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C)] for mainstreaming of women scientists who have taken a break in their career, Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) programme to develop infrastructure and research facilities in women-only universities, 'Mobility' programme to address relocation issue of working women scientists and 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' programme to provide international exposure to women scientists and technologists. KIRAN scheme also has capacity building programmes under 'National Program for Training of Women Scientists and Technologists working in Government Sector'. 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.

(c) In Maharashtra, 102 projects have been sanctioned under Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) in last three years and 32 projects have been sanctioned under

'Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE)' since its inception in 2011.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has started a new program "Vigyan Jyoti" during 2019-20 for girl students of Class 9 to 12 in order to increase the number of women in STEM education. This will further improve the participation of women in scientific research and development.

Policy for becoming a global force in science

1748. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council to Prime Minister has urged Government to find innovative ways to attract the best talents in teaching profession so as to bring improvement in the quality of education;

(b) whether the panel has also insisted that there is need to increase the investment in science and technology education in order to realise its ambition for becoming a global force in science;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has formulated any ad-hoc policy in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) deliberated upon and reviewed the initiatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in the field of research and innovation and recommended the following:

- (i) A demarcation between research and teaching roles and ensuring the value of both for quality research output and high teaching standards. It will be equally critical to ensure that Ph.D. research guides are qualified and capable of guiding students.
- (ii) Academic institutions can be restructured in a format that promotes interdisciplinary research framework rather than in departmental silos. This