

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2219
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2021

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2219 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 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 these 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 the State of Karnataka?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) Yes Sir, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing a dedicated scheme Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) to ensure participation of women in the field of Science and Technology (S&T) through various gender enabling programmes. It is primarily aimed for improving gender parity in Science & Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain through various programs, namely, Women Scientist Scheme for women scientists having break in career, Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) program for development of infrastructure and research facilities, 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM (WISTEMM)' to provide international exposure to women scientists. Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) programme aims to transform institutions for more gender sensitive approach and inclusiveness with ultimate goal to improve the gender equity in S&T. WISE-KIRAN Scheme also encourages meritorious girls to pursue career in

underrepresented areas of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) through Vigyan Jyoti Programme. Further, “SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)” scheme aims to address lower participation of women scientists in research activities and to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering. In addition to this, 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 career break, provide infrastructure support, 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 include support research, development, knowledge generation and adaptation of technology to create gainful employment for women, reduce their drudgery, improve working conditions in local areas through inputs of S&T. Also, to improve the quality of life, look into health and nutrition of women through the application of S&T.

(c) The Science & Technology for Women 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. Nearly 50 individual projects and 40 Women Technology Parks (WTPs) have been supported under Science & Technology Scheme for Women and around 10,000 women have been trained through both the initiatives over last three years for gainful employment in different parts of the country including rural areas.

(d) Around 1040 women scientists, more than 12000 meritorious girls of Class IX-XII and around 10000 women at grassroots level from different states of the country have been benefitted through various programmes under WISE-KIRAN Scheme in last three years. In the state of Karnataka, under Women Scientists Scheme more than 80 women scientists and in Vigyan Jyoti programme around 650 meritorious girls received support from the Department.
