

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 444
ANSWERED ON 06/02/2025

WISE-KIRAN SCHEME

444. SHRI R. DHARMAR:

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

- (a) the features of the Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) scheme;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this scheme within Tamil Nadu during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far under this scheme;
- (d) the details of the number of women benefitted under this Scheme especially from rural areas within Tamil Nadu so far along with its response; and
- (e) whether Government is planning to implement any new project under this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Women in Science & Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) Scheme is aimed to provide various opportunities to women in order to strengthen their footprints in the domain of Science & Technology (S&T). WISE-KIRAN is a holistic scheme that caters unemployed women, employed women, young girls through fellowship programmes and also strengthens the infrastructure of women institutions. Further, it is also sensitizing institutions at policy level for gender equity. The major objectives of the WISE-KIRAN scheme are:

- i. To retain women in science and help re-entry of women scientist after a break into career paths within S&T sector.
- ii. Enhance the representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- iii. To implement programmes under different categories keeping in view the individual capability, competency and aptitude in the context of basic research, societal development and self-employment.
- iv. To provide avenues for capacity building, knowledge and skill enhancement both at national and global levels.

(b) The details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under the WISE-KIRAN scheme within Tamil Nadu during the last three years are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds sanctioned/ allocated (Rs. in crore)	Funds utilized (Rs. in crore)
1.	2022-23	14.12	5.45
2.	2023-24	12.31	2.87
3.	2024-25	20.32	7.50
	Total	46.75	15.82

(c) During the last three years, a total of 1442 fellowships and 31 institutions have been supported to achieve the scheme target.

(d) During the last three years, around 140 women scientists from Tamil Nadu including rural areas have benefitted under the WISE-KIRAN scheme. The programmes under the WISE-KIRAN scheme are well received in the state.

(e) Yes Sir. During 2024-25, Department of Science and Technology has started a new initiative 'Leadership Development Programme for women working in Space and Allied Sciences' in collaboration with the British Council. Under this programme, four (4) workshops are being organized at different locations in the country. Also, a new programme 'Women's International Grant Support (WINGS)' is also started this year.
