

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1463
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2006
WOMEN SCIENTISTS
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring about changes in scholarship provided to the women scientists each year under the fellowship scheme;
- (b) whether any provision to equally encourage the women scientists working in rural and urban areas is likely to be made;
- (c) whether basic facilities are not made available to the rural women scientists in comparison to urban women scientists;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the women scientists undergoing research work or research study are being given separate scholarships;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of the condition as well as performance of women scientists in the country at present?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

- (a) The fellowship scheme for women scientists was formulated in the year 2002-03 with an aim to provide opportunities for women scientists to reenter the main stream of science after a break in career. Regular appraisal of the scheme is carried out to improve the scheme and make it even more gender sensitive. Recently the fellowship for PhD candidates with requisite qualifications in the scheme has been enhanced to Rs.20,000/-p.m.
- (b) Equal opportunities are given to women scientists from rural and urban areas.
- (c) Basic facilities are made available to both women scientists from rural and urban areas.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e)&(f) Under the Scholarship scheme support is provided to women scientists to undertake R&D in basic and applied science and also for technology development / adaptation for societal application. Under the scheme a project will be considered from scientists in areas of science, engineering or medicine.
- (g) Performance of the Women Scientists is assessed from time to time and has been found to be satisfactory. The Government has recently set up a Task Force for Women in Science to formulate guidelines so that the interests of women scientists are protected, to recommend appropriate measures to promote women to take up the scientific profession and to assess and review the impact of gender initiatives pertaining to women scientists taken by the government.