Witness protection programme

- 2157. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :
- (a) whether Government maintains a database of witnesses who have turned hostile in various cases;
- (b) if so, the number of the same during last three years, State-wise, if not, the reasons therefor;
 - (c) whether Government has a witness protection programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether there are other means by which Government provides for the safety of witnesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) National Crime Records Bureau does not maintain any data on the number of witnesses who have turned hostile. Section 195A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 195A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) provide for legal recourse available to the witnesses.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the State Governments are thus primarily responsible for protecting the life and property of the citizens including witnesses.