

(c) to (e) Disaster Management and Rehabilitation in the aftermath of the disaster are the responsibility of State Government. Government of India does not maintain State specific records of implementation of rehabilitation projects centrally.

Protection of witnesses

1791. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government for protection of witnesses in various cases and keep the witness identity a secret;

(b) if so, the details of action taken; and

(c) whether any advancements has been done to make use of in-camera hearings where the witness does not come face to face with the accused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs prepared a “Witness Protection Scheme, 2018” in consultation with the National Legal Service Authority, Bureau of Police Research and Development and the State Governments. The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgement dated 05.12.2018 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 156 of 2016 has endorsed the Scheme. The Hon’ble Supreme Court has also directed that the Union of India as well as States and Union Territories shall enforce the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 in letter and spirit and that it shall be the ‘law’ under Article 141/142 of the Constitution, till the enactment of suitable Parliamentary and/or State Legislations on the Subject.

This scheme provides various measures for protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment including holding of in-camera trials.

Citizenship Amendment Bill

1792. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason why Government plans to extend benefits offered under the Citizenship Amendment Bill to minorities of only three neighbouring countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan while leaving out other neighbouring countries like Myanmar; and