

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2299**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 23RD MARCH, 2022/ 2 CHAITRA, 1944 (SAKA)
SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL CASES**

2299. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that witnesses in criminal cases are either killed or threatened in a large number of dangerous criminal cases due to which courts had to finally quash such cases in various courts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such persons killed during the last three years and number of cases in which the accused were set free due to adverse attitude of the witnesses during the said period;

(c) whether Government proposes to make a law for security of witnesses in dangerous criminal cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (d): ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of citizens are with respective State Governments. Details of witnesses killed and cases in which accused were set free due to adverse attitude of witnesses is not centrally maintained.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a “Witness Protection Scheme, 2018” which has been endorsed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 05.12.2018 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 156 of 2016. The scheme provides various measures for protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment.
