

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2305**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 18, 1945 (SAKA)

WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME

2305 # SHRI RAMBHAI HARJIBHAI MOKARIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the purpose of witness protection scheme;**
- (b) whether the witnesses have been categorized into three categories under the said scheme;**
- (c) if so, the details of all the three categories; and**
- (d) whether provision of funds has been made for this scheme under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a): Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, which provides for protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment and protection measures, *inter-alia* includes protection/change of identity of witnesses, their relocation, installation of security devices at the residence of witnesses, usage of specially designed Court rooms, etc.

(b) & (c): The Scheme provides for three categories of witness as per threat perception:

Category 'A': Where the threat extends to life of witness or his family members, during investigation/trial or thereafter.

Category 'B': Where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or his family members, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.

Category 'C': Where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family member's, reputation or property, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.

(d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the States/UTs are responsible for implementation of the Scheme. The Scheme provides for a State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the scheme. This fund shall be operated by the Department of Home under State/UT Government. This fund also includes funds contributed under Corporate Social Responsibility. The information in this regard is maintained by the respective State Governments.
