

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 403**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH JULY, 2021/ ASHADHA 29, 1943 (SAKA)

PROTECTION TO WITNESSES

403. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any data on the number of witnesses killed and cases in which the accused were set free due to adverse attitude of witnesses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is true that the scheme provides only three months of protection to witnesses, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there exists any penal provision for individuals breaking the confidentiality of personal information, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): Details of witnesses killed and cases in which accused were set free due to adverse attitude of witnesses is not centrally maintained.

(b): The Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 provides that the witness protection measures ordered shall be proportionate to the threat and shall be for a specific duration not exceeding three months at a time. The duration of protection is thus, not restricted to three months. The same

can be extended by the Competent Authority keeping in view the threat perception.

(c): The Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 provides that all stakeholders including the Police, Prosecution Department, Court Staff and Lawyers from both sides shall maintain full confidentiality and shall ensure that under no circumstance, any record, document or information in relation to the proceedings under this scheme shall be shared with any person in any manner except with the permission of the Trial Court/Appellate Court and that too, on a written order.
