

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2691**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14th DECEMBER, 2021/AGRAHAYANA 23,1943 (SAKA)

WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME

2691. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has complied with the orders of the Supreme Court to provide financial support to the States to establish Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes in the State;

(b) if so, details thereof including the budgetary allocations and funds released, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has tracked implementation of the Witness Protection Scheme 2018 across States; and

(d) if so, details thereof, including funds allocated and released under the scheme and the list of implementing States, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in district and subordinate courts by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern.

The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. Till date the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 8709.77 crore under the Scheme to States/UTs. The Government has extended the above scheme for a further period of five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.9000 crores, including Central share of Rs.5307 crores.

(c) & (d): The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 05.12.2018 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 156 of 2016 has endorsed the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018.

'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 and shall comprise of the following:

- i. Budgetary allocation made in the Annual Budget by the State Government;**
- ii. Receipt of amount of costs imposed/ ordered to be deposited by the courts/tribunals in the Witness Protection Fund;**
- iii. Donations/ contributions from Philanthropist/ Charitable Institutions/ Organizations and individuals permitted by the Government.**

iv. Funds contributed under Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested the State Governments/UT Administration vide its letter dated 14.01.2019 to implement the Witness Protection Scheme as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Subsequently, Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time has written to States/UTs for the implementation of the 'Witness Protection Scheme, 2018'.
