

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1425
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
SECURITY TO WITNESSES
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether witnesses are often harassed and pressed to change their evidence or prevented from giving evidences;
- (b) if so, the steps undertaken for providing protection to the witnesses;
- (c) the details of the existing provisions in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to make specific provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC)/Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for ensuring the safety of witness;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (e): Data in respect of witnesses alleged to be harassed and pressed to change their evidence or prevented from giving evidence is not centrally maintained.

The Law Commission of India in its 198th Report on "Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes" has suggested comprehensive review of witness protection. Since the criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, this requires consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Report has been referred to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their comments/views. No time-frame can be fixed in this regard.