

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*153
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018**

NATIONAL FILM HERITAGE MISSION

***153. DR. K. GOPAL:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Film Heritage Mission has taken a decision to revive the Rs.590 crore film preservation project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the project was put on freeze after poor archival conditions at the National Film Archive of India came to the fore in September last year and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether hiring professional service providers for proper maintenance of celluloid vaults was high on agenda; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]:

(a) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*153 FOR REPLY ON 20.12.2018

(a) & (b): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched Central Sector Scheme namely 'National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)' in the year 2014, to restore, digitize and archive films and filmic material through National Film Archive of India (NFAI), with a total approved outlay of Rs.597.41 crore.

The scheme is continuing since its launch in November, 2014. However, there were reports in the media in September, 2017 regarding decaying of film reels in the NFAI, Pune. Following the reports, it was decided not to process any further RFPs until the activities under the NFHM are reviewed and a way forward is finalized. In this regard, a Committee of Technical Experts consisting of eminent film personalities namely Shri Shaji N Karun, Shri Ponnaya, Shri Piyush Shah, Shri K S Sasidharan and Shri Ketan Mehta, was constituted on 26.04.2018 to look into the condition of the films and related material at NFAI and to suggest ways and means of restoring them. The committee submitted its detailed report on preservation practices of NFHM/NFAI and suggested measures to be taken on technical and general aspects of film preservation.

(c) & (d): At present, the maintenance of celluloid vaults is being done through Civil Construction Wing (CCW) of All India Radio.
