GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1488 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2022

NATIONAL FILM HERITAGE MISSION

1488: SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has been implementing the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) to restore, digitize and archive films;
- b) if so, the details of achievements made and funds allocated so far under the NFHM;
- c) whether several old film reels including rare reels both domestic and foreign are "missing/not in runnable condition";
- d) if so, the details thereof; and
- e) the steps being taken by the Government to restore, digitize and archive such films?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. The Government has been implementing the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) to undertake the restoration, digitization and archival of India's film heritage in a Mission Mode through the National Film Archive of India (NFAI). NFHM was launched in November, 2014 as a Plan Scheme, initially spread over Financial Years 2014-15 to 2020-21 and envisaged at a total cost of Rs.597.41 crore. NFHM has been restructured in Mission Mode and

continued during the period FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25 with an estimated outlay of Rs.544.82 crore.

The achievements under the NFHM include collection assessment of 1,54,305 film reels, their categorization under A, B and C categories based on the extent of damage of the reel material and digitization/scanning of a total of 1491 film titles, including 648 feature films and 755 short films. One of the restored films of the maestro, Shri Satyajit Ray, 'Pratidwandi', was recently screened at the Cannes Film Festival. Another restored film of Shri Satyajit Ray, 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi', has been selected for screening in the Venice International Film Festival.

The film reels assessed under NFHM include certain stock of rare film reels, both domestic and foreign. These reels shall undergo the processes of digitization and/or restoration. The digitization process envisages work broadly related to cleaning, scanning and cataloguing of film reels. The restoration process entails reduction/removal of damage or errors. The digitization and restoration of content will ensure effective archiving of the film reels both in physical format and digital format.