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Title: Need to confer national awards for the category of Stunt Choreographers and stuntmen in Indian Cinema.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): The National Awards for films which are conferred as incentive by the Government for making artistic, competent and meaningful films, have come a long way to cover the entire national spectrum of Indian cinema. These awards are given in three sections - Feature films, Non-feature films and best writing.

National Awards aim at encouraging the production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance in cinematic form and thereby promoting integration and unity of the nation. Another commendable aspect of the National Awards is to encourage good films in all languages. Similarly, awards for documentaries, whether short or full length, are given in different categories.

Though awards are conferred in many categories, on and off screen, one category of artistes, i.e. stuntmen and the stunt choreographers lend an aura of entertainment, particularly in action-oriented movies but have been left out from the ambit of this National Award. Action movies are the order of the day and are being rolled out in large numbers. Many stuntmen risk their lives to create a 'real' action sequence and stunt choreographers toil hard to make the performance of these stuntmen reach a zenith to give a 'real' entertainment. Introduction of National Awards for the 'stunts' category can encourage the outstanding talents of these stuntmen and choreographers.

Hence, I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting through this august House to consider conferring National Award in the category of Best Stunt Choreographer/Best Stuntman.