

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-556**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2023

**TRIBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

556. SHRI INDRA HANG SUBBA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the fund allocated during the last five years to Sikkim under the Tribal Research Institute (TRI);
- (b) the details of training undertaken by TRI in Sikkim during the last five years; and
- (c) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote the indigenous craft and textile industry in the North Eastern States, particularly in Sikkim?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

**(a):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs through Centrally Sponsored scheme “Support of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)” is providing financial assistance to States / UTs for various activities to be undertaken by State Tribal Research Institutes including execution research programmes. The basic objective of the scheme is to strengthen the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and their infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training and capacity building programmes etc. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is funding 27 Tribal Research Institutes in 25 States and 2 UTs under the said scheme. Details of funds released to State Government of Sikkim during last five years under Support to TRIs are at **Annexure-I**.

**(b) & (c):** (i) Initiatives of MoTA and TRIFED: State TRIs take up training in their states. Details of training undertaken by TRI in Sikkim are at **Annexure-II**. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funds through the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission to Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) for providing marketing support to tribal gatherers and artisans through procurement of tribal products and produce and facilitating sale

through retail outlets as well as different e-commerce platforms; by organising exhibitions, melas, mahotsavs, supplier meets, etc. TRIFED has empanelled tribal products suppliers comprising of individual tribal artisans, tribal Self Help Groups (SHGs), Organisations / Agencies / NGOs working with tribals etc. to accelerate growth of the tribal craft and products. Tribesindia.com is the e-commerce portal through which TRIFED promotes and sells products made by the tribals of India, through its 14 regional offices. In addition to this, TRIFED Regional Offices have accounts with the leading 3rd party marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal etc. These activities are undertaken all over the country, including in Sikkim. The scheme of Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region has been approved during 2021-22 which aims to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products. The scheme has been specifically designed for the North Eastern Region including Sikkim.

(ii) The initiatives taken by M/o Development of North Eastern Region are at **Annexure –III**.

(iii) The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handlooms, Government of Sikkim in order to promote indigenous crafts has established Branch Training Centres in respect of various Arts and Crafts for local youth in all the six districts of Sikkim. There are Sales Emporium at Gangtok and New Delhi and smaller outlets in various locations within the state for display and sale of our Handicrafts and Handloom products.

**Annexure-I**

**Annex referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.556 for answer on 06.02.2023.**

Details of funds released under the scheme 'Support to TRIs'

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No	State	Fund Released				
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Sikkim	136.00	194.50	82.50	144.00	273.3

**Annexure-II**

**Annex referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.556 for answer on 06.02.2023.**

Financial Year	Details of Training
2018-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training of TRI officials on implementation of FRA, 2006.</li> <li>2. Training of trainers in r/o district officials on FRA, 2006.</li> <li>3. Development of training modules and literature on FRA, 2006 in local language.</li> <li>4. Awareness on FRA to all the Panchayats of the State.</li> <li>5. Week long capacity building programme on Lepcha tribal folk theatre-drama.</li> <li>6. One day seminar on value addition and market linkage or products of tribal artisans</li> <li>7. Capacity building-training of Lepcha Hat weaving (dying Art) including awareness on patent registration or geographical indication or bar-coding or packaging.</li> </ol>
2019-2020	Seven day National Workshop for Bhutia, Lepcha, Limboo, Tamang and Sherpa language teachers on teaching and learning tribal languages in Sikkim.
2020-2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promotion of Lepcha art of making cane and bamboo crafts for livelihood in North, South, East and West Sikkim @ Rs. 10.00 lakh per district.</li> <li>2. Promotion of Tamang tribal art of Thangka painting, wood carving and traditional instruments with costumes for Tamang tribal ritual specialist.</li> <li>3. Promotion of weaving of traditional clothes from handlooms for the development of dress culture and traditional costumes of the Limboo tribe including making of Traditional Drum (Chyabrung).</li> </ol>

**Annex referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.556 for answer on 06.02.2023.**

North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd (NEHHDC) is a CPSE under the aegis of Ministry of Development of North Eastern. The organization provides handholding support for artisans and weavers in the entire North Eastern Region.

North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd (NEHHDC) is uplifting the culture and traditions of the indigenous communities of the North East by promoting the indigenous crafts of the region through connecting craftsmen to prospective markets and consumers and generating economic, cultural and social opportunities for creators while adding cultural value for the consumers.

a) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited has signed MoUs with number of entrepreneurs from North Eastern states; for showcasing and marketing of handicrafts & handlooms products of those entrepreneurs in various platforms like (i) NEHHDC's own chain emporium in New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Kevadiya(Gujarat) (ii) NEHHDC's own ecommerce portal <https://purbashree.com/>, (iii) Amazon, Flipkart, GoCoop and GeM.

b) Northeast Kalakriti 2022 was conducted by NEHHDC, which is a free platform where NEHHDC is offering the artisans of Northeast India to meet the urban customers directly. Leading to make the artisans understand the urban trends and on the other hand make the customers understand an artisan's lifestyle.

c) For the first time in the history of Surajkund Mela, NEHHDC is mobilising the biggest artisan's contingent from NER to participate in the 36th Surajkund International Craft Mela from 03<sup>rd</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

d) NEHHDC has commissioned two mobile showrooms christened as "Purbashree on Wheels" which provide necessary market linkage to the artisans groups, SHGs, entrepreneurs of NER.

e) NEHHDC is setting up of North East (Ashtlaxmi) Haat & Experience Centre for Facilitating Market Linkage for the Handicrafts & Handloom Artisans and Weavers from the North Eastern Region ₹7.6 crores. In the proposed Haat all the eight NE states will be provided 03 stalls each for showcasing & marketing of handicrafts & handlooms items along with ethnic cuisine. The project has received administrative approval from North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

**Skilling and up-skilling:-**

- a. NEHHDC has been registered / recognized as:
  - I. Training Partner (TP) with the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) under the M/o Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GoI
  - II. NEHHDC has been recognised as Skill Hub for integrated skilling approach under National SC-ST HUB Scheme by Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India

- III. Nominated by the Ministry of MSME, GoI as 'Nodal Agency' for implementation of projects under their SFURTI scheme.
- IV. Nominated as a Centre of Excellency by the Handicraft & Carpet Sector Skill Council.
  - b. NEHHDC is conducting various skilling & upskilling course amongst SC & ST youths of NER for self-employment & livelihood support, sponsored by the National SC-ST HUB Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India. NEHHDC has been given a target for skilling & upskilling of 1200 nos. of SC & ST youths of the North East region against a financial lay of ₹2.25 crore under the National SC-ST HUB Scheme by Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India. As of now 1050 nos. of SC & ST youths of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, & Tripura are undergoing various courses viz. Tour Guide course, Two Shaft Handloom Weaver, Field Technician Computing & Peripherals, Self Employed Tailor, Taxi Driver, Jacquard Weaver-Handloom and Bamboo Utility Handicrafts Assembler etc.
  - c. NEHHDC has been designated as a Training Centre by Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India for imparting training under the SAMARTH.

### **Market intelligence**

- a) NEHHDC & NIFT have entered into collaboration for "VISIONXT" programme where Artificial Intelligence, Trend Spotters, Workshops, Market Intelligence will be used for Trend Forecasting. VISIONXT is Artificial Intelligence enabled Trends Insight & Fashion Forecasting Lab at M/o Textiles, Govt. of India.
- b) On 9th October 2022, during the 70th Plenary of the NEC, Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Chairman NEC Shri Amit Shah launched the Mobile Application of NEHHDC dedicated to the artisans and weavers of North East India, in presence of Shri G. Kishan Reddy Hon'ble DoNER Minister, Vice Chairman, NEC. In this app Artisans can upload their products directly to the App. The app is also equipped with various Courses for better Training and Skill Development of the Artisans. News section of the app will keep the artisans updated with relevant information. Till now around 230 numbers of artisans from NE states are registered in the mobile app.
- c) Imitation and mass manufactured products by machine are driving out genuine handwoven products out of the market leading to lower demand and earnings for handloom weavers. NEHHDC has received administrative approval from NEC, M/o DoNER for the project "Market Development by Way of Digitization, Authentication and Implementing Traceability in Handloom Sector of North Eastern States" for financial outlay of ₹14.92 crores. Under the project 10,000 handlooms will be digitalized with IoT devices. By way of implementing this project, NEHHDC aims to provide identity, authenticity to the handwoven products which would help in market expansion. It will further increase in earnings of the weavers 15% by the end of the project period and 30% over the next five years.

### **Raw material availability**

- a) To modernize handloom and handicrafts industry and provide marketing support to the industry, NEHHDC has received administrative approval from NEC, M/o DoNER for establishment of an Eri Silk Spinning Mill at Integrated Textile Park, Baksa (Assam) for a

project cost of ₹14.92 crores. Once completed, it will process 270MT per annum of Eri cocoons to produce 170MT per annum Eri silk yarns. NEHHDC's projected profits of the Spinning Mill will be ₹0.75 lakhs per annum.

**Road Maps for next five years:-**

NEHHDC has prepared the following road maps for next five years need to be taken to encourage and incentivise the handloom and handicrafts industry in the region:-

1. Undertake Cluster & Skill Development
2. Market Eri Cocoon & Raw Silk
3. Establish a banana fibre extraction Plant
4. Establish Integrated Handloom Export Hubs
5. NEHHDC be a lead marketing agency for Handicrafts & Handlooms in NE India
6. Establish a regional Digital Design Centre
7. Establish a pineapple leaf fibre extraction plant
8. NEHHDC be an apex body for Market Research & Consultancy
9. Promote and market Craft Tourism in NER

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