



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS  
2024-2025**

**FIFTEENTH**

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Report on the Demand for the Grant No.59  
for the year 2024-2025**

**DEPARTMENT : HANDLOOM, TEXTILE & SERICULTURE**

**TWENTY SIXTH REPORT**

**Presented to the House on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024.**

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT  
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI - 781006**

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## COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS, 2024-25

**CHAIRMAN :** Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali

MLA & Chairman

**MEMBERS :**

1.	Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
2.	Shri Utpal Borah,	MLA & Member
3.	Shri Sibumisra,	MLA & Member
4.	Shri Rupak Sharmah,	MLA & Member
5.	Shri Kaushik Rai,	MLA & Member
6.	Shri Taranga Gogoi,	MLA & Member
7.	Shri Diganta Kalita,	MLA & Member
8.	Shri Darsing Ronghang,	MLA & Member
9.	Shri Rupsing Teron,	MLA & Member
10.	Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
11.	Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
12.	Shri Jolen Daimary,	MLA & Member
13.	Dr. Amiya Kumar Bhuyan,	MLA & Member
14.	Shri Basanta Das,	MLA & Member
15.	Shri Abul Kalam Rasheed Alam,	MLA & Member
16.	Shri Diganta Barman,	MLA & Member
17.	Shri Abdul Batin Khandakar,	MLA & Member
18.	Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah,	MLA & Member
19.	Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed,	MLA & Member
20.	Hafiz Bashir Ahmed,	MLA & Member
21.	Shri Aminul Islam (Senior),	MLA & Member
22.	Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
23.	Shri Charan Boro,	MLA & Member
24.	Shri Manoranjan Talukdar,	MLA & Member

**OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Hemen Das, Principal Secretary,
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
3. Smti. Deergha Baruah, Deputy Secretary,
4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary,
5. Shri Dhanajit Talukdar, Special Officer,
6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Estate Officer,
7. Shri Mahen Ch. Doley, Superintendent Member's Hostel,
8. Shri Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, Committee Officer,
9. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Language Officer,
10. Shri Baidurjya Bharali, Superintendent,
11. Shri Bhaskar Saikia, Librarian,
12. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer.

(ii)

## INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **TWENTY SIXTH REPORT** on Demands for **Grant No. 59** of the **Handloom, Textile and Sericulture Department** for the financial year, **2024-2025**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Handloom, Textile & Sericulture Department** on **15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and approved by the Committee in its sitting held on **19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Handloom, Textile and Sericulture Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Dispur:  
Dated 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali,  
Chairman,  
Departmentally Related Standing  
Committee on Development (B) Departments,  
Assam Legislative Assembly.

## REPORT

### CHAPTER- 1

#### GRANT NO.-59

##### **1.1 Introduction of Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam**

Weaving and Handloom has a great tradition in the State of Assam and is inextricably linked to the Socio-cultural and economic life of the people, Assam boasts of being the State having about half of the country's looms and about 30 (thirty) lakhs people are directly or indirectly associated with weaving. Weaving in handlooms has provided maximum number of employment in the State next to Agriculture.

The Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam runs 102 nos. Handloom Training Centre, 4 nos. Handloom Training Institute, 98 nos. Weavers Extension Service Units, 20 Nos. Handloom Production Centre, 1 no. Handloom research and Designing Centre, 1 Product Procurement Centre under production programme. All the centres are for the benefit of weavers outside the Co-operative sector. The Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation is the State level corporation to look after these weavers. The three pronged Co-operative (organized) sectors consist of more than 1988 Primary Weavers Cooperatives Societies, 7 nos. Regional/District level Cooperative Societies and 1 no. Apex Co-operative Society. Assam is the home of Muga and Eri silk. Besides, the State produces Mulberry silk also to some extent.

##### **1.2 A BRIEF NOTE ABOUT THE DIRECTORATE OF HANDLOOM & TEXTILES, ASSAM.**

The Directorate of Handloom & Textiles has been implementing, various schemes for the promotion and development of the handloom sector and has been providing assistance to the handloom weavers, both within and outside the Cooperative fold ever since its inception in the year 1983. As a result, infrastructure for both quantitative and qualitative improvement in production has been achieved considerably in the State. Some of the major works of the department are (a) Technology up-gradation with improved handlooms and provision for easy access to raw material (b) Production of Handloom fabrics in the sector at reasonable consumer price (c) Providing Marketing Assistance (d) Social Sector Welfare schemes which also contribute to productivity, (e) Training & Education for Skill Upgradation of the Weavers (f) Research & Development in Textile designing & Natural Dyeing and their documentation (g) Publicity of Various schemes and

Development works undertaken by the department for public domain (h) Holding of Exhibition/Expos for marketing promotion of Handloom Fabrics and to provide a platform to sell the Handloom fabrics produced by the weavers in the State (i) Cluster based Handloom Development Project (j) Establishment of Handloom model village for overall development of weavers in integrated manner and (k) To make available of handloom made Gamocha into the market of the State and thereby to prevent flow of powerloom made cheaper Gamocha from outside the State, this Directorate has given priority to produce maximum nos. of Gamocha through Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies, Weavers Self Help Group, Weavers Extension Service Units and through different schemes. (l) Enforcement of "The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. m) Organization and administration of Handloom Co-Operative Societies Act, 2007", (n) Working Capital Assistance to Primary Weavers Cooperative Society, etc.

### **1.3 ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF**

- a) **Training Programme**
- b) **Production of Handloom Fabrics**
- c) **Research and Development**
- d) **Publicity & Exhibition**
- e) **Setting up of yarn bank**
- f) **Scheme Under Schedule Caste Component Plan**
- g) **Economic upliftment of weavers**
- h) **Handloom Cluster Development Programme**
- i) **Income Generation Intervention of Weavers**
- j) **Swanirbhaar Naari**
- k) **Handloom Model Village**
- l) **In Setting up of Integrated Handloom Park at Kaziranga**

### **1.4 NEW SCHEME LAUNCHED BY THE GOVT. DURING 2024-25**

- A. Mega Handloom Park in Sualkuchi, Kamrup District**
- B. Setting up of Mini-Museum cum Training cum Resident Complex of Padmashree Hemapraya Chutia for preservation of display and training**
- C. Setting up of Design Studio cum Digital Smart Training centre at Directorate office**

## SERICULTURE

### INTRODUCTION

1.5 Before presenting the preliminary status under Grant No. 59 relating to Sericulture Department it is felt to write few lines on the present scenario of Sericulture in Assam. It is traditional agro-based cottage industry, practiced in Assam from time immemorial and has witnessed a drastic change over the recent years with the introduction of fresh inputs garnered from results derived from intensive biotechnological lab analysis and research.

This labour-intensive and agro based cottage industry continues to provide gainful employment to around 3.10 lakh families in rural and semi-urban areas of Assam, of whom a sizeable number belong to the economically weaker tribal section of the society and women. It has proved itself to be a sustainable farm-based economic enterprise positively favouring the rural poor in the un-organized sector because of its relatively low requirement of fixed capital and higher returns on investment.

Assam a natural home to the rearing of Silk Worm of Muga, Eri & Mulberry Silk and Oak Tasar in Hill District as well as the plantations on which they feed upon. Assam accounts for highest production of Non-Mulberry silk viz, Muga and Eri in the country. Assam enjoys world monopoly in the production of Muga, the "Golden Silk". In the year 2020-21, Assam has produced 4002.44 M.T. of raw silk in state which has been considered a remarkable achievement in the country. Sericulture Department has 336 No. of Farms & Centres covering around 3687.93 hect. of land, 3 Nos. of Cocoon Bank, 1 No. of Training Institute (Sericulture Training Institute, Titabar), 1 no. of Research Institute, 2 Nos. of Technical Information Centre, etc.

Directorate of Sericulture, Assam under the Administrative control of Handloom Textile & Sericulture Department, Government of Assam was established in the year of 1958 with a different nomenclature as Directorate of Weaving & Sericulture, Assam till July 1983.

In the month of July 1983, this Directorate was separated as the Directorate of Sericulture, Assam bifurcating the Weaving as a new Directorate known as Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam. Since separation of the Directorate of Sericulture, it has been performing as a nodal Department for all activities relating to Silk & Silk production in the State. The Headquarter of the Directorate of Sericulture, Assam is located at Khanapara just 5 KM away from Dispur, the Capital of Assam. This Directorate is headed by a Senior State Government Officer borne from the Assam Civil

Service, Senior Grade. To control the entire Sericulture mechanism in the State, the Govt. of Assam has created many offices in General Areas and Sixth Schedule areas as well. However, the Sericulture Offices, Farms, Centres, Units, Projects etc. under Sixth Scheduled Areas viz., Karbi-Anglong District Autonomous Council covering entire Karbi-Anglong & Karbi West District; Dima-Hasao District Autonomous Council covering the entire Dima Hasao District and Bodoland Territorial Council covering four districts i.e. Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri have now been transferred to the Council's jurisdiction, hence the activities of this Directorate is limited to General Areas except these Sixth Scheduled Council Areas.

#### **1.6 ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF :**

Department of Sericulture, Assam receives fund mainly under the Grant No. 59 for implementation of the following activities/schemes/projects for overall development of Sericulture in Assam. The Directorate of Sericulture, Assam prepares the detailed plans against the fund allocated by the Finance Department under Grant No. 59.

- Strengthening of Govt. Sericulture Farms, Centres & VGRs by maintaining of existing plantations, technical buildings, staff quarters, boundary wall, cold storage, providing revolving funds to Silk Worm Seed Production Farms.
- Setting up of Nursery & Extension of Plantation.
- Development of Irrigation System by installing Deep Tube Well in Govt. Farms/Centres.
- Support to Private Rearers & Entrepreneurs.
- Development of Cocoon Marketing System.
- Impart Training for Skill Development of Rearers, Spinners & Reelers
- Organization of Workshop, Exhibition & Mela to promote Silk Industry.
- Providing Award to Top Seri Performers.
- Organization Awareness Programme.
- Distribution of Quality Silk Worm Seeds to Private Rearers.

### **1.7 BRIEF NOTE ON SERICULTURE**

The fund allocated for implementation of different schemes for overall development of Sericulture in Assam mainly comes from the Budget Grant No. 59 hence it is the major fund flowing source of Sericulture Department. The Department of Sericulture prepares plans like maintenance of Govt. Farms & Centres, providing Revolving Fund for procurement Seed Cocoon & Reeling Cocoon, support to Private Seri Farmers & Entrepreneurs, Organization of different exhibitions, Exposure Programme. Training Workshop cum Motivation Camp, special support to women Seri Farmers, divyang seri farmers etc. on the allocation made under Grant No.59

## **REPORT** **CHAPTER-II**

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the financial year 2024 -2025 on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Department held its meeting 15-02-24 to discuss in respect of Grant No. 59 relating to the Handloom, Textile & Sericulture Department.

At the same time the Committee considered the Action Taken report on the recommendations made in its Twenty fifth Report in the year 2023-24 and in addition to the scrutinizing of the budget provision.

Budget provisions under Grant no 59 relating to the Handloom, Textile & Sericulture Department, 2024-25 are as follows :

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	32224.91	3003.94	35228.85
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Areas			

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	32007.73	300.94	35011.67
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

### **Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council**

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	98.89	0.00	98.89
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

### **North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council**

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	45.27	0.00	45.27
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

### **Bodoland Territorial Council**

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	73.02	0.00	73.02
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

Under the following heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

• 2851 Village and Small Industries	32007.73
• 4851 Capital outlay on Village and small Industries	3003.94
<b>Grand Total -</b>	<b>35011.67</b>

The amount so allocated is presented before the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue expenditure.

While discussing the Budget provision for the year 2024-25, the Committee found that the Budget so allocated comparatively less than the previous Financial Year and there is no clear indication as to why the Budget allocation has been reduced. However, the Committee feels that the Department should communicate with the Finance Department, Govt. of Assam for necessary Budget provision in order to restrict the hindrances that may arise while performing the function of the Department.

**Action taken Report on the Observation & Recommendation of the Departmentally  
Related standing Committee on Development (B) Dept. Grant No. – 59,2023-24**

**Handloom, Textiles & Sericulture Department, Assam.**

**Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam.**

Sl. No.	Observations and Recommendations	Action taken report on the recommendation	Remarks
1	<p>During the course of discussion, the Committee observed that the weavers are facing difficulties to collect the different types of yarn as there is no yarn bank in the Block level areas. As a result weavers have to bear more transportation expenditure and time for collecting yarns</p> <p>The Committee, therefore recommended that, the Department should set up yarn Bank in the Block level areas with availability of yarns. The Committee also recommended that the Yarn Bank may set up at the Weavers Extension Service Unit &amp; Handloom Production Centre exists at Block level so as to supply subsidized yarn to the weavers to produce more Gamocha and other items to face the competition from power loomed Gamocha etc.</p>	<p>1.Department has already earmarked budget for strengthening the cotton yarn bank in the existing 33 yarn Bank for the next financial year 2024-25.</p> <p>Department has already decided to delegate the power to the WESU and sub divisional for smooth supply of subsidized cotton yarn.</p>	
2	<p>During the course of discussion the committee observed that the departmental Weavers Extension Service Unit &amp; Handloom Production Centre are unable to produce sufficient numbers of handloom fabrics due to lack of working capital as well as improved looms etc. It is required to strengthen the Weavers Extension Service Unit &amp; Handloom Production Centre.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the Weavers Extension Service Unit &amp; Handloom Production Centre are to be strengthened by providing Working Capital and improved Looms so as to produce sufficient handloom products to face the competition from powerloom made Gamocha etc. The department should take appropriate steps to provide budgetary</p>	<p>2.Government is implementing a flagship scheme Swanirbhar Naari for economic upliftment of the weavers by procuring 33 itmes of traditional handwomen products i.e Gamocha, Aronai, Mising Dumer &amp; E'rkog, Rabha Pazar, Karbi– Poho, Manipuri Khudei, Dimasa Risa Basa, Tiwa Fali, Deuri Gamocha, Koch Rajbonsi Gamocha etc., directly from weavers through a online portal swanirbhar.assam.gov.in</p>	

<p>allocation in this regard. The Committee also recommended that the Department should take necessary action to prevent on the selling of powerloomed Gamosas Mekhela Sador, etc. and to encourage the weavers for traditional weaving under the Handloom act of Assam.</p>	<p>without intervention of the middle man since 2022-23. The Department had set up different procurement different procurement centres in various places of the State to purchase benchmarked equality products from the registered weavers. So far 564811 nos. of weavers were registered in the Swanirbhaara naari portal and total 410333 nos. of products were procured from 17678 weavers amounting to Rs. 16,46,95,795/- upto 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.</p> <p>Under this programme, the weavers under Weavers Extension Service Units (WESU) and Handloom Production Centres (HPC) are also benefitted.</p> <p>Assamese Gamocha has received the GI tag (Geographical Indication) from the competent authority. On 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023 the GI certificate was handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam in presence of more than 20,000 onlookers on the day of record breaking event of 11,304 Bihu dancers at Sarusajai Stadium.</p> <p>During the FY 2023-24 more than 32,942 pieces of power loomed Gamochas were seized by the District officials from the various business establishments as per Handloom reservation Act, 1985. As a result, the local weavers got their actual prices against their hand woven items through the local market.</p>	
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<p>3</p>	<p>The Committee observed that the stipend provided to the trainees admitted in Handloom Training Centre and Handloom Training Institute in the State is Rs. 80/- and Rs. 200/- per month only which is very meagre to meet the expenditure by the economically weaker trainees of the State.</p> <p>The Committee recommended enhancing the stipend in Handloom Training Centre and Handloom Training Institutes from Rs. 80/-to Rs. 1500/- per month and Rs. 200/- to Rs. 2500/- per month respectively.</p> <p>The Committee also recommended the Department to take initiative for set up more Handloom Training Center.</p>	<p>3. HTS Department has already moved to Finance (EC-II) Department Ecf No.331749 for enhancement of stipend in Handloom Training Centre and Handloom Training Institute for its concurrence.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>The Committee observed that the land reserved for sericulture production is not being used at present and as result the production of sericulture is also decking. Therefore the Committee recommended that the concerned Department measures should be taken to improve the quality of production by making proper use of these lands as soon as possible.</p>	<p>4. The Directorate of Sericulture is continuing the plantation of Silkworm food plants in the Govt. Seri Farms. In this regard, 3,54,706 nos.of plants have been raised during 2023-24 under State and CSS scheme, and also under the convergence with P&amp;RD, CMIPP etc.</p> <p>A total of 25 nos. of Amrit Sarovar have been established covering 25 hectors of land in different Govt. Sericulture Frams which will make the plants succulent during the winter/dry season by making the food plants leave suitable for the Silkworm to feed on. During the current financial year Department have going to establish nursery in the various Govt. Sericulture farms for smooth supply of Some, Kesar plant to the farmers concerned.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p>The Committee observed that the weavers were provided poor quality of wooden looms which were deteriorates over time as a result the artisans were discouraged to stop weaving.</p> <p>Therefore the committee recommended the Department should take initiatives to distribute either good quality of wooden looms or steel framed looms to the weavers to encourage them to the development of Handloom and Textile sector in the State.</p>	<p>5. To provide the good quality wooden and steel framed looms, the Department has taken necessary steps towards distribution of looms &amp; accessories among the weaver beneficiaries under Central Sector Schemes i.e Cluster Development Programme (CDP) under NHDP and State Sector Scheme i.e Handloom Cluster Development Programme (HCDP). Accordingly, the tender has been floated and matter is under process.</p>
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**OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GRANT NO.59**

**HANDLOOM, TEXTILE & SERICULTURE**

The Committee after holding a threadbare discussion an on clause scrutinization of the Report related to Grant No 59 of the Handloom, Textile and Sericulture Department on the evidences provided Departmental representatives made the following Observations and Recommendations :

1. During the course of discussion the committee observes that a 'Modern Design Studio cum Testing Laboratory' is utmost necessity for preservation of traditional indigenous design of the region and creation of new innovative motifs as per buyer's choice as well as testing facility of the yarn and fabric for quality production.

The Committee recommends that the Department should set up a 'Modern Design Studio cum Testing Laboratory' in the Directorate for preservation of traditional design as well as creation of new motifs as per market demand and testing facility for yarn and fabrics to generate best quality products.

2. During the course of discussion the committee observes that the products procured from the indigenous weavers of the State under Swanirbhar Naari Scheme (SNN) in different districts and subdivisions are presently being sold by the ARTFED, AGMC & few selected WESU of the department.

The Committee recommends that, the Department should take initiatives to sell the items of SNN Scheme in different places of the State through Weavers Extension Service Unit (WESU), Handloom Production Centre (HPC) of the Department and out lets of ARTFED, AGMC, so that the people get the opportunity to purchase the products at Government rates. The products of Swanirbhar Naari Scheme are available in all Asstt. Director, Handloom and Textiles offices in the Districts/Subdivisions. Therefore the Committee also recommended that the department should take necessary steps to create awareness amongst people of the State and also encourage them to purchase pure Handloom Products procured by the Govt. under SNN Scheme.

3. The Committee observes that the slope of the embankment of different rivers in the State and some areas in the Govt. Sericulture Farm are lying vacant which can be used for plantation of food plants for Silk Worm which will surely enhance productivity.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that the concerned department should take necessary steps to raise food plants for Silkworm on the slope of the embankment as well as vacant land of Govt. Sericulture farms in collaboration with MGNREGA and P&RD for silkworm rearing so that Seri Farmer can enhance their production and thereby uplift their economic status.

4. During the course of discussion the Committee observes that despite being banned many times, power loomed gamochas still occupy a large portion of the market.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the department should take a strict stance in this regard to ban power loomed gamochas completely so that the work of local weavers can be promoted globally.

5. During the Course of discussion the Committee observes that a huge plot, measuring 52 Bighas under Handloom & Textiles Department at Kaki under Lumding LAC is lying vacant. The Committee was also informed that adequate infrastructure and staff is also there.

Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends that the Department should take necessary steps on priority basis to start with an Eri Muga Project and to make this project successful, requisite steps should be taken up to initiate Eri Muga plantation parallelly.

With these observations, the Committee recommends that the total amount of Rs. 35011.67 lakhs as sought for, under Grant No. 59 of the HANDLOOM, TEXTILE & SERICULTURE for the financial year 2024-25 be approved by the August House.

**Action taken report on the recommendations should be submitted to the Committee within 90 days from the presentation of the report to the House.**

2024

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