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FOREWORD

As per the 3rd Handloom Census of 2009-10, there are 27.83 lakh handloom households in India with total workforce of 43.32 lakh persons in the handloom sector. Out of the total handloom households in the country, 16.83 lakh households are in the Northeast constituting more than 60% of the total, while 20.81 lakh handloom workers are in the Northeast constituting 48% of total workforce. Most of the handloom households and workers in the Northeast are from Assam. The state alone accounts for 12.41 lakh handloom households constituting about 45% of the total handloom households in India and 16.17 lakh handloom workers constituting more than 37% of the total workforce.

The Ministry of Textiles is responsible for policy formulation, planning, development of export promotion and trade regulation in respect of the textile sector which includes cotton, man-made fibers, jute, sericulture & silk, wool, a number of specialty fibres and their products and Handloom and Handicrafts. The Ministry continues to earmark 10% of its total budget for the North Eastern Region (NER) of India. The budget allocation under the Ministry of Textiles for the 12th Five Year Plan is Rs 25,931.00 crores out of which allocation for NER is Rs 2,593.10 crores.

The expenditure under the Ministry in NER during Annual Plan 2012-13 was Rs 184.65 crores against budgeted revised estimate of Rs 450.00 crores. During Annual Plan 2013-14, the expenditure was Rs 232.71 crores against budgeted revised estimate of Rs 390.00 crores.

Out of the revised estimate of Rs 390.00 crores during Annual Plan 2013-14, allocation for handloom schemes was Rs 90.50 crores while Rs 70.00 crores was allocated for the newly launched North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS). NERTPS was approved in November 2013 as an umbrella scheme which provides for the development of projects related to Silk, Handloom and Handicraft as well as for the construction of Apparel and Garment manufacturing Centres. The Scheme has a total outlay of Rs 1038.10 crore for implementation in the 12th Plan. Under NERTPS, relaxations are provided for various components of existing handloom schemes in addition to new schemes and components in the sector. The expenditure during Annual Plan 2013-14 was Rs 70.39 crores for handloom schemes while for NERTPS it was only Rs 2.86 crores as the scheme had few months for implementation during the year. However, during Annual Plan 2014-15, the expenditure under NERTPS upto 13.01.2015 was Rs 105.93 crores against budgeted revised estimate of Rs 126.00 crores while for handloom schemes the expenditure was only Rs 20.58 crores against revised estimate of Rs 97.90 crores.

NERTPS signals a shift in policy by the government for promotion of textiles as also handloom in the Northeast and the early signs are encouraging.

B. P. Muktieh
Chairman and Managing Director

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