

Ministry of Textiles

Accelerating Growth & Development of Textile Sector in the North Eastern Region

The North Eastern Region of India despite its inherent advantages like fertile land, abundant natural resources, a fairly homogeneous and literate population, has been unable to keep pace with the economic and industrial development elsewhere in the country.

In order to overcome the historical investment deficit in the North Eastern Region and with a view to achieving the overall economic development of the region, the Government has introduced a system of mandatory earmarking of 10% of the Budget outlay by each of the Central Ministries (except a few exempted Ministries/Departments) every year for expenditure in the North East. This practice is in vogue since 1996. The Ministry of Textiles earmarks 10% of its budget outlay for the North Eastern States.

Plan Outlay & Expenditure for Textiles & Textile based Schemes in NER from 2007-08 to 2009-10

(Rs in crore)

| Sl. No | Sector | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | | 2009-10 | | | | 2010-11 | |
|--------|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | Total (BE) | NER | | | (BE) Total | NER | | | (BE) Total | NER | | | (BE) Total | NER Outlay (BE) |
| | | | Outlay (BE) | Outlay (RE) | Exp. | | Outlay (BE) | Outlay (RE) | Exp. | | Outlay (BE) | Outlay (RE) | Exp. P | | |
| 1 | Handlooms | 315.00 | 63.00 | 63.00 | 63.00 | 340.00 | 85.00 | 71.11 | 69.79 | 340.00 | 85.00 | 85.00 | 76.09 | 426.00 | 106.00 |
| 2 | Sericulture | 110.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 115.00 | 17.50 | 23.50 | 23.50 | 115.00 | 17.50 | 47.90 | 47.90 | 320.00 | 70.00 |
| 3 | Handicrafts | 220.00 | 44.00 | 44.00 | 32.99 | 220.00 | 54.00 | 53.50 | 51.71 | 220.00 | 54.00 | 55.66 | 49.69 | 286.00 | 66.00 |
| 4 | Mega Clusters | | | | | | | | | 50.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.50 | 150.00 | 5.00 |
| 5 | Jute Technology Mission | 80.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 80.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 70.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 80.00 | 8.00 |
| 6 | Cotton Technology Mission | 60.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | | 60.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | | 60.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | | | |
| 7 | Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks | 450.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | | 450.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | | 397.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | | 400.00 | 50.00 |
| 8 | TUFS | 945.00 | 34.00 | 42.00 | | 1140.00 | 50.00 | 211.61 | | 3140.00 | 250.00 | 191.19 | | 2400.00 | 132.50 |
| 9 | NIFT | | | | | 32.25 | 0.50 | 6.50 | 6.50 | 32.25 | 0.50 | 27.25 | 27.25 | 245.00 | 35.00 |
| 10 | Others | 63.00 | | | | 62.75 | | | | 75.75 | | | | 418.00 | |
| | Total (1-9) | | | | 143.99 | | | | 159.50 | | | | 210.43[^] | | 472.50 |
| | Grand Total | 2243.00 | 224.00 | 232.00 | | 2500.00 | 250.00 | 409.22 | | 4500.00 | 450.00 | 450.00 | | 4725.00 | |

P: Provisional

: Based on releases from PAO

[^] The expenditure in the North East is less than the outlay because of the lack of demand for assistance from the North East under major schemes of the Ministry such as TUFS, SITP, Cotton Technology Mission etc.

Ministry of Textile's schemes/programmes for textiles based activities like handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute, which are NER's main source of employment and income generation after agriculture, are as follows:.

A. Handloom Sector:

Handloom industry plays a dominant role in the cultural and economic development of the rural masses in majority of the North Eastern States. Almost all tribes and communities in the hills and the plains of the region are actively engaged in this activity. This region has the highest concentration and a rich heritage of handlooms in the country. Out of 25.4 lakh units engaged in handloom activities in the country, 14.6 lakh units, comprising both household and non-households, are concentrated in five States only i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura as per the Handloom census of 1995-96. Over 53% of the looms in the country and more than 50% of the weavers belong to the north-east and bulk of the handloom output is contributed by people residing in hills and rural areas. Hence, handloom sector plays a significant role in the economy of the region.

The distribution of Handlooms in NER is given in **Table – I**.

TABLE – I
Distribution of Handloom in North Eastern Region

| State | Working looms | Idle looms | Total looms | Approximate No. of Weavers |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Arunachal Pradesh | 45,060 | 456 | 45,516 | 53,474 |
| Assam | 12,98,731 | 1,10,437 | 14,09,168 | 23,22,278 |
| Manipur | 2,66,915 | 3,346 | 2,70,261 | 4,62,084 |
| Meghalaya | 7,783 | 418 | 8,201 | 40,250 |
| Mizoram | 14,388 | 9,406 | 23,794 | N.A. |
| Nagaland | 71,636 | 5,867 | 77,503 | 1,36,827 |
| Tripura | 1,16,659 | 2,413 | 1,19,072 | 2,91,761 |
| Total | 18,21,172 | 1,32,343 | 19,53,515 | 33,06,674 |

Source: Census of Handloom in India.

.Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura contribute 82% of the domestic loomage. However, only 13.4% of the commercial looms of the country are in these 5 States and the contribution of these States to the total production of handloom fabrics is merely 20%. The type of looms used are fly shuttle looms, loin looms and throw shuttle looms and the weavers use mostly cotton and acrylic yarn. The handloom fabric produced ranges from shawls, sarees, mekhalas, chaddars, gamochas, lungis, dhotis, gent's jackets, ladies wear,

bed sheets, bed covers, laisangphee, furnishings, carpets and shoulder bags. Bulk of the handloom goods produced in the region comprise of dress materials, whose texture, designs and distinctive features are customarily preferred by the men and women folk of the region. These goods do not have substantial market potential in the rest of the country where dress habits and fashion concepts are completely different. This factor, coupled with the fact that over 88% of the active looms are extensively used in the non-commercial sector (i.e. being used for production of cloth for self- consumption) makes it difficult to estimate the actual production of handloom goods in the region.

The formation of co-operatives is viable only in Assam, Tripura & Manipur. In other states, most of the weavers are weaving through individual efforts and are unable to derive the benefit of the schematic support provided by the Ministry of Textiles through the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are also unable to assist weavers to make them economically & socially better off. However, the present concept of formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) is bringing some individual weavers on a common viable platform.

| Scheme-wise Allocation and Utilization of funds in North East Region (NER) for the last three years i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| (Rs. in Crores) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sl. No. | Name of the Schemes | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | | 2009-10 | | | |
| | | BE | RE | Actual Expdr. | Achievement | BE | RE | Actual Expdr. | Achievement | BE | RE | Actual Expdr. | Achievement |
| 1 | Integrated Handloom Development Scheme | 20.00 | 20.00 | 19.70 | 79373 weavers | 30.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 65446 weavers | 30.00 | 30.00 | 22.75 | 313932 weavers |
| 2 | Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 80 Events | 10.00 | 6.00 | 5.07 | 116 Events | 10.00 | 10.00 | 9.60 | 168 Events |
| 3 | Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme | 40.00 | 40.00 | 39.41 | 553312 weavers | 40.00 | 45.17 | 44.87 | 677956 weavers | 40.00 | 40.00 | 39.90 | 524534 weavers |
| 4 | Diversified Handloom Development Scheme | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 5.00 | 5.85 | 5.85 | Census work is still going on | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.75 | Census work is still going on |
| | Total | 63.00 | 63.00 | 62.11 | | 85.00 | 71.02 | 69.79 | | 85.00 | 85.00 | 77.00 | |

Note: No State-wise targets are fixed under any scheme

B. SERICULTURE IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

The North-Eastern Region occupies an important position on account of its unique flora and fauna. The climate here is congenial for the healthy growth and development of sericulture industry, which covers mulberry, oak tassar, eri and muga culture, the last three being commonly known as non-mulberry culture. Eri culture is one of the most predominant sericulture in the region. The muga culture is unique and confined particularly to the Brahmaputra Valley and is not found in any other part of the world.

Silk culture or sericulture is the rearing of insect that produces silk yarn. It is an extremely delicate work that requires patience throughout the entire cycle of rearing silk moths from egg to cocoons. Silk, is acclaimed as the queen of all the textiles, having all the desired qualities of textile, viz., fibre-strength, elasticity, softness, coolness and affinity to dyes. Muga silk is golden yellow in colour, which makes its very attractive. The world demand for natural silk textiles is soaring. Traditional silk producing countries like Japan, Korea, Brazil and Russia have drastically cut production due to socio-economic reasons. India, taking advantage of the situation, has launched a massive developmental Scheme on sericulture. The export of silk has been registering a steady growth of 30% annually. The world silk demand according to a survey conducted by the International Silk Association (ISA) is steadily increasing due to the enhanced awareness about natural fibres and preference for silk fibres. Silk fibres are mostly woven on handlooms, which are quite popular in the domestic as well as export markets.

Availability & Varieties of Sericulture:

Sericulture is not an organized commercial activity as is the case of mulberry. It is prevalent mainly amongst the tribals in hill districts of Assam and northern hill areas of Meghalaya. The lower Brahmaputra Valley is the traditional home of eri spinners and weavers, producing bulk of eri yarn and fabric. In Arunachal Pradesh, sericulture is practiced in the foothills and plain areas. The eri cocoons are utilized locally. In Meghalaya, sericulture is practiced in Ri-Bhoi and Garo Hills. In Nagaland, the plain areas practice Sericulture.

The famous golden silk, Muga culture in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam is traditional. Assam alone produces 86,000 Kg. of raw muga. In Arunachal Pradesh, muga culture has been newly introduced, although occasionally wild muga seed cocoons are produced in certain foothill areas. Meghalaya is a good source of basic seed cocoons especially from areas bordering Assam. In Nagaland, there is one Muga Sub-centre of about

60ha.producing good cocoons. In Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura, Muga culture is a new introduction.

Oak Tassar culture is a new introduction in the States of N.E. Region. In all the States a number of Oak Tassar Centres have been established. The status of the silk industry during XI plan in NER is as follows:

| Silk Industry Status during XI Plan | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| S.No | Particulars | 2007-08 (Achievement) | | 2008-09(Achievement) | | 2009-10(Target) | |
| | | Total | NE States | Total | NE States | Total | NE States |
| 1 | Mulb area (lak Ha) | 1.85 | 0.14 | 1.78 | 0.19 | 2.1 | 0.17 |
| 2 | Raw Silk Prod (MT) | | | | | | |
| (i) | Mulberry | 16,245 | 112.2 | 15,610 | 137 | 20,180 | 173 |
| (ii) | Non-Mulberry | | | | | | |
| a | Tropical Tassar | 424.29 | | 598.79 | | 373 | |
| b | Oak Tassar | 3.71 | 3.21 | 4.21 | 3.7 | 7 | 5.5 |
| c | Eri | 1,530 | 1,491 | 2,038 | 1,997 | 2,120 | 2,011 |
| d | Muga | 117 | 116.65 | 119 | 118.8 | 175 | 172 |
| | Sub Total(Non Mulberry) | 2075.00 | 1610.86 | 2760.00 | 2119.50 | 2675.00 | 2188.50 |
| | NE Share of Vanya Silk | | 78% | | 77% | | 82% |
| | Grand Total | 18,320 | 1,723 | 18,370 | 2,256 | 22,855 | 2,362 |
| | Total Silk Production (NE Share) | | 9% | | 12% | | 10% |

Development Projects in NER:

The Central Silk Board implements Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the North Eastern Region for development of Sericulture and silk industry on cost sharing basis between the Centre and State Govt. in the ratio of 90:10 respectively. Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) of the XI Five Year Plan aims to provide a thrust, inter-alia, to the development of the non-mulberry sector. During 2007-08 and 2008-09, state wise releases under CDP are as follows:

| XI Plan releases under CDP: 2007-08 & 2008-09 | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Rs. in crore |
| S.No. | State | 2007-08 (Releases) | 2008-09 (Releases) |
| 1. | Assam | 14.87 | 3.89 |
| a. | Bodoland | 4.05 | 2.02 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2.2 | 1.14 |
| 3. | Manipur | 5.95 | 0.9 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | 0.75 | 2.67 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 2.49 | 2.3 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 2.17 | 1.63 |
| 7. | Sikkim | 0.5 | 0.32 |
| 8. | Tripura | 4.34 | 1.45 |
| | Total | 37.32 | 16.32 |
| | For all states | 80.82 | 90.74 |
| | NE Share (%) | 46% | 18% |

(C) Handicrafts

1. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY)

1. This scheme aims to promote Indian handicrafts by developing artisans' clusters into professionally managed and self-reliant community enterprises on the principles of effective member participation and mutual cooperation. The thrust of the scheme is on a project-based, need-based integrated approach for sustainable development of handicrafts through participation of crafts persons, leading to their empowerment.

2. Design & Technical Up-gradation

The scheme aims to upgrade artisan's skills through development of innovative designs and prototype products for overseas markets revival of languishing crafts and preservation of heritage etc.

3. Marketing Support and Services schemes

The Marketing Support Scheme and the Export Promotion Scheme implemented separately in the Tenth Plan have been clubbed in the Eleventh Plan into a new scheme titled "Marketing Support & Services Scheme" with following three broad components :

- a) Domestic Marketing
- b) International Marketing
- c) Publicity.

Eligibility : Reputed NGOs/Cooperatives/Apex Cooperative Societies/Handicrafts Corporations/Councils/Institutions.

4. Human Resource Development Scheme

The Human Resource Development Scheme has been formulated to provide qualified and trained workforce for establishing a strong production base coupled with improvement in quality and use of appropriate techniques, processes and innovative designs to meet present day market requirements.

(i) Training Through Established Institutions.

To upgrade the existing skill as well as to add additional skill to handicrafts artisans through existing vocational institutions/Industrial Training Institutes/Polytechnics etc. which are imparting skill based training such as carpentry, welding, tailoring, carpet weaving etc. Handicrafts artisans shall get the benefit of exposure/interaction with the other courses allied to the crafts i.e. wood carvers shall get the benefit of carpentry, embroidery artisans shall get benefit of tailoring etc. Training of handicrafts artisans through such Institutions will bring in systematic approach for continuous and sustainable development of artisans community, fruitful employment, as well as strong production base for meeting the short production cycle of International market.

(ii) Training in Innovative Designs for the persons involved in Pattern making/Talim writing/Plaster/Rubber Moulds/Block making etc.

Artisans involved in Hand block printing, Terracotta etc. depend on the Block maker, POP mould maker etc., which are totally different skill oriented activities. Thus development of skill in such backward integrated activity is essential for sustenance and development of

Handicrafts. This scheme aims to train the artisans involved in pattern making , stencil making etc. towards uniform specification and increase in production.

(iii) Training of Artisans/SHG leaders/NGO in capacity building.

The scheme aims to train artisans & NGOs, potential entrepreneurs and SHG leaders in non-technical skills such as micro finance/entrepreneurship development/preparation of business plans/preparation of project reports/packaging/export procedures/Documentation etc.

(iv) Conducting Seminars/Workshops

For continuous dissemination and creation of awareness about schemes/programmes, technological developments, market intelligence etc. amongst Artisans and stakeholder of Handicrafts sector, sharing of experience with experts for adoption of best practices and improving the scheme based on suggestions/discussions and experiences of handicrafts artisans and persons involved in this sector.

5. Research & Development

A Research and Development scheme was introduced to conduct surveys and studies of important crafts and make in-depth analysis of specific aspects and problems of Handicrafts in order to generate useful inputs to aid policy planning and fine tune the ongoing initiatives; and to have independent evaluation of the schemes implemented by this office. The scheme has been continued for implementation during the Eleventh Five year plan. Following activities are being undertaken during the 11th Plan:

- A Survey Studies.
- B Conducting all India Census of handicraft artisans @ 20% districts of the country every year.
- C. Registration of Crafts under Geographical Indication Act & Financial support for certification of raw materials and products.
- D. Setting up of new labs/strengthening of existing labs for standardization/certification of raw materials.
- E. Assisting handicrafts exporters in adoption of GSI global identification standards and for bar coding, including handicrafts mark for generic products.

6. Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

The scheme has been included in the 11th Five Year Plan as one of the major schemes with the following two main components, aimed at Insurance Cover and Health Care of Handicrafts Artisan and his family:

A. *Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana.*

- *Objective*

Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana aims at financially enabling the artisan community to access to the best of healthcare facilities in the country. This scheme covers not only the artisans but also any three of his members out of spouse, dependent parents and children.

- Eligibility

All craft persons whether male or female, in the age group of one day to 80 years will be eligible to be covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana.

B. Bima Yojana for Handicrafts Artisans.

- Objective

- The objective of “Bima Yojana For Handicrafts Artisans” is to provide life insurance protection to the Handicrafts artisans, whether male or female, in the age group of 18-60 years.

- Eligibility

All crafts persons, whether male or female, in the age group of 18-60 years will be eligible to be covered under the BIMA Yojana for Handicrafts Artisans.

STATE-WISE, SCHEME-WISE FUNDS RELEASED UNDER HANDICRAFTS SCHEMES DURING 2007-08 , 2008-09 are as follows:

Rs. in Lakh

| STATE-WISE, SCHEME-WISE FUNDS RELEASED UNDER HANDICRAFTS SCHEMES DURING 2007-08 | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------------------------|--------|
| Sl.No. | State | AHUY | Design | R&D | HRD | RGSSBY/ Bima Yojana | Total |
| 1 | Arunachal Pradesh | 111.46 | 1.68 | | 5.63 | | 118.77 |
| 2 | Assam | 264.27 | 99.07 | 10.01 | 78.17 | | 451.52 |
| 3 | Manipur | 171.96 | 62.09 | 14.8 | 34.08 | | 282.93 |
| 4 | Meghalaya | 6.76 | 0 | | 4.27 | | 11.03 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5 | Mizoram | 4.74 | 0 | | 0 | | 4.74 |
| 6 | Nagaland | 30.29 | 47.95 | 7.56 | 16.39 | | 102.19 |
| 7 | Sikkim | 57.5 | 0 | | 0 | | 57.50 |
| 8 | Tripura | 43.4 | 3.6 | | 4.58 | | 51.58 |
| | All states | | | | | 7117.00 | 7117.00 |
| | Total | 690.38 | 214.39 | 32.37 | 143.12 | 7117.00 | 8197.26 |

| STATE-WISE, SCHEME-WISE FUNDS RELEASED UNDER HANDICRAFTS SCHEMES DURING 2008-09 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | Rs. in Lakh |
| Sl.No. | State | AHVY | Design | Marketing Support & Services | | | R&D | HRD | RGSSMY | Total |
| | | | | Marketing | Export | Publicity | | | | |
| 1 | Arunachal Pradesh | 86.44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.13 | | 89.57 |
| 2 | Assam | 502.31 | 141.95 | 446.30 | 118.2 | 0 | 17.57 | 39.30 | | 1265.63 |
| 3 | Manipur | 181.52 | 64.41 | 110.41 | 0 | 0 | 2.83 | 41.33 | | 400.50 |
| 4 | Meghalaya | 0.75 | 0 | 6.75 | 0 | 0 | 3.37 | 7.16 | | 18.03 |
| 5 | Mizoram | 52.34 | 0 | 46.47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 98.81 |
| 6 | Nagaland | 124.37 | 26.80 | 61.67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.27 | | 216.11 |
| 7 | Tripura | 71.45 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 7.05 | 0 | 0 | 8.72 | | 94.22 |
| 8 | Sikkim | 1.27 | 0 | 6.38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 7.65 |
| | Total of NER | 1020.45 | 237.16 | 680.98 | 125.25 | 0 | 23.77 | 102.91 | 0 | 2190.52 |

Scheme wise Budget Allocation and expenditure under Handicrafts Sector during 11th Five Year Plan in NER

Rs. in crore

| S.No. | Name of Scheme | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
|-------|---|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | BE | Exp. | BE | Exp. | BE | Exp. |
| 1 | Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) | 8.00 | 6.24 | 14.00 | 10.29 | 14.00 | 13.93 |
| 2 | Design & Technical Upgradation | 3.00 | 1.87 | 4.00 | 2.26 | 4.00 | 6.38 |
| 3 | Marketing Support & Services & Export Promotion | 8.00 | 4.55 | 12.50 | 8.30 | 12.50 | 8.26 |
| 4 | Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme | 19.00 | 18.67 | 18.00 | 29.69 | 18.00 | 18.23 |
| 5 | Research & Development | 1.00 | 0.25 | 2.00 | 0.28 | 2.00 | 0.59 |
| 6 | Human Resource Development | 3.00 | 1.41 | 2.00 | 0.89 | 2.00 | 2.06 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7 | Infrastructure Projects | 2.00 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 0.25 |
| | Total(NER) | 44.00 | 32.99 | 54.00 | 51.71 | 54.00 | 49.70 |
| | All India, including NER | 220.00 | 162.85 | 220.00 | 206.08 | 220.00 | 210.58 |
| | Percentage(NER) | 20.00 | 75.00 | 24.55 | 95.75 | 24.55 | 92.03 |
| | | | | | | | |

Source : O/o DC(Handicrafts)

C. Central Government's initiatives for Development of Textile Sector in NER:

The Government of India has extended top most priority to development of these sectors in the north eastern region through introduction of different schemes and allocation of adequate funds such as Schemes for Integrated Textile Parks, Integrated Jute Parks, Scheme for Comprehensive Handloom Clusters, Jute Clusters etc.

However, despite these development schemes, the textile sector in this region has not been able to derive benefit of these schemes, due to it being unorganized & dispersed, inadequate infrastructure facilities, lack of new technologies, low level of skills, absence of product diversification & market development and above all poor institutional frame-work to catalyse growth of this sector.

The SITP and IJP have not been successful in the region primarily due to the inability/reluctance of entrepreneurs in the North-East to form Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), and arrangement of land and mobilize the required capital (10% of the project cost) as specified in the scheme. However, the Ministry will continue to make further efforts for increasing plan expenditure in the North East by introducing schemes specifically suited to the region and assigning responsibility for implementation of these schemes.

(D) Jute Technology Mission:

The Jute Industry occupies an important place in the national economy. It is one of the major industries in the eastern region like Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. The production process in the Jute industry goes through a variety of activities, which include cultivation of raw jute, processing of jute fibres, spinning, weaving, bleaching, dyeing, finishing and marketing of both raw jute and its finished products. The Jute Industry is labour intensive and, as such, its labour-output ratio is also high. In spite of various difficulties faced by the industry, capacity utilization of the industry is around 75 per cent.

The Mini Mission III and IV were launched by the Ministry of Textiles on February 6, 2007 with the objectives:

- To improve yield and quality of jute fibre;
- To strengthen existing infrastructure for development and supply of quality seeds;
- Improvement of quality of fibre through better methods of retting and extraction technologies;
- To increase the supply of quality raw material to the jute industry at reasonable prices and to develop efficient market linkage for raw jute;
- To modernize, technologically upgrade, improve productivity, diversify and develop human resource for the jute industry;
- To develop and commercialize innovative technology for diversified use of jute and allied fibers.

Under Jute Technology Mini Mission III (construction of new market facilities and upgradation of existing market facilities), the State Government are required to share minimal percent of cost for development of the marketing infrastructure. Under Mini Mission IV which is location specific, the State Government has an important role to play in raw jute cultivation as agriculture is a state subject. Extension services have become non-existent. Growers' cooperatives need to be revived to protect grower's interest in raw jute marketing. The scheme aims at setting up enterprise for handicrafts, spinning, weaving, wet processing and hand made papers in general and entrepreneurship development in diversified jute sector in particular, The programme will be carried out by setting up operating units namely, Jute Diversification Support Centre (JDSC) and Jute Diversification Support Extension Centre(JDSEC). The above objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- a) To conduct trade specific training programme
- b) To organize awareness generation programmes
- c) To create scope for large scale consumption of jute in non-traditional field
- d) To develop skill among weavers, entrepreneur and crafts-persons.

The plan schemes in the jute sector are implemented by the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) and Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC).