Activities & Performance Of The Directorate Of Textiles, Handlooms, Spinning Mills, Silk Weaving & Handloom Based Handicrafts Division.

INTRODUCTION

The Directorate of Textiles (Handloom, Spinning Mills, Silk weaving & Handloom Based Handicrafts Division) under IC& E Department, West Bengal is the nodal Agency to look after the development of Handloom Sector in the State of West Bengal.

Other organisations and undertakings, which support the development of Handloom sector of the State, include two Central marketing organisations and State controlled spinning mills.

The central marketing organizations are:
(1) The West Bengal State Handloom Weavers’ Cooperative Society Ltd. (TANTUJA)
(2) Paschim Banga Resham Silpi Samabay Mahasangha Ltd. (RESHAM SILPI),

They procure handloom cloth from primary weavers’ coop. societies and also from weavers outside cooperative fold and sell their product from their retail outlets.

Some Basic Statistics

Handloom Industry is the largest cottage industry of the State providing employment opportunities to a large number of people only next to Agriculture. In West Bengal, there are 3,07,829 handlooms as per census conducted by the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India in 2009-2010 giving direct and indirect employment to about 6,65,006 persons. The 4th Handloom census is going on.

1. No. of Handloom workers as per census of GOI, 2009-10 6,65,006
2. No. of household units engages in handloom activities 4,06,761
3. No. of Active PWCS 528
4. Annual Production (in million Sq. Meter) 715.00
5. Weavers’ Photo Identity Cards issued 5,31,075

BENGAL HANDLOOM PRODUCTS

- Exquisite variety
  a. Baluchari Saree
  b. Korial saree
  c. Silk Tangail & Jamdani Saree

- Fine Cotton Variety (80'-100'"
  a. Tangail & Jamdani Saree
  b. Shantipuri Saree
  c. Dhaniakhali Saree
  d. Lungi & Dhoti

- Dyes
  a. Synthetic
  b. Natural

- Waste Silk
  a. Ketis
  b. Noil
  c. Matka

- Plan Than
  a. Mulberry Silk
  b. Tassar
  c. Munga

- Employment
  6,65,006 persons

BENGAL HANDLOOMS

- Silk Variety

- Cotton Variety

EXPORT VARIETY

- Scarves/Stoles
  - Ladies & gents dress materials
  - Home Furnishing
  - Table linen

- Medium/ Coarse
  a. Sarees
  b. Shirting
  c. Lungi
  d. Curtain
e. Bed

- Exquisite variety
  a. Baluchari Saree
  b. Korial saree
  c. Silk Tangail & Jamdani Saree

- Super fine “MUSLIN” made of Hand Spun Cotton Yarn

- Cotton
- Silk
- Wool
- Linen
- Fancy Yarns
Important Schemes/Projects for Development:

A. DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES/PROJECTS

1. Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS) under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) (Centrally sponsored)
2. Mega Handloom Cluster Development Project covering entire Murshidabad & part of Nadia District (Centrally Sponsored) under CHCDS.
3. Comprehensive Handloom Development Programme in Dakshin Dinajpur District under BRGF.
4. Handloom cotton and silk Projects under Natural Fibre Mission under BRGF in four districts
5. Tanti Sathi (State Sector)
6. Computerization of PWCS under Revival, Reform & Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector (Centrally sponsored)
7. 10% Price Subsidy on Hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme (Central Sector)
8. Production of Cheaper Variety of Cotton Saree (State Sector) and Production of Polyester /Viscose saree, dhuti, lungi etc. for supply to Disaster Management. (State Sector)
9. Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 (Centrally Sponsored)
10. Incentives with a special emphasis to Handloom Sector through West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2013 for MSME in Textile Sector under West Bengal Textile Policy 2013-18.
11. West Bengal Handloom Circuit Development Scheme-2014 (State Sector) & ISDS (Centrally Sponsored)
12. Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) in Fulia, Nadia District.
13. Infrastructure Development (State Sector)
14. Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 (Central Sector)
15. Weavers’ Credit Cards
16. MUDRA Scheme for Weavers
17. State participation in Share capital support to the State Controlled Spinning Mills (State Sector).
18. State participation in Share capital support to the West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. (State Sector)
19. Integrating tourism with handloom & handicraft at 3 selected circuits

B. WELFARE SCHEMES:

- Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY)
- RSBY Scheme for Handloom Weaver Family (Centrally Sponsored)
- Old Age Pension to weavers (State Sector)

A. DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES/PROJECTS

1. Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS) under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) (Centrally sponsored)

A) Cluster Development Programme (Centrally Sponsored and State Sector)

The objective of the programme is to facilitate the sustainable development of handloom weavers located in & outside identified handloom clusters into cohesive, self-managing and competitive socio-economic unit.

a) New Cluster Project:
Cluster is to be set up at Block Level in the handloom concentrated area. In a Block more than one cluster may also be taken up depending upon need with respect to number of handlooms.

b) Handloom Cluster Projects (Under State sector) [having 500 – 1000 looms]:
Cluster is to be set up in the Handloom concentrated area which are not covered under CHDS.

Main components of the Scheme:

i) Skill up-gradation training on Weaving / Dyeing
ii) Technology up-gradation
iii) Design development and Product Development.
iv) Purchase of Computer Aided Textile Design System (CATD)
v) Setting up of Yarn Depot
vi) Setting up of Common Facility Centre/Dye House/ ETP/Common Service Centre.

vii) Construction of individual work shed for handloom weavers

viii) Engagement of Designer cum Marketing Executive.

ix) Publicity and Marketing.

### Performance of Handloom Cluster Projects (Centrally Sponsored & State Sector)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Scheme</th>
<th>PHYSICAL</th>
<th>Financial (Rs. In lakh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing clusters=12 (5060 weavers) New Block level clusters =08(4000 wvrs.)</td>
<td>Ongoing clusters=12 (5060 weavers) New Block level clusters =03(2110 wvrs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing clusters =64 (14168 weavers) New clusters = 10 (5000 weavers)</td>
<td>Ongoing clusters =64 (14168 weavers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>760.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centrally sponsored</td>
<td></td>
<td>Central =104.21 (1st installment of 03 Block level clusters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State= 609.00 lakh as 2nd instalment/balance fund of 17 ongoing handloom clusters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### B) Marketing Incentive (MI):

Under the scheme 10% Marketing Incentive of the average sales turnover of the last 3 Years is given to the handloom agencies for promotion of marketing of handloom products and to offset the cost disadvantage with respect to power loom and Mill Sectors in the ratio of 50:50 between State and Government of India. State government first releases the state share of 50% on the basis of which Government of India releases its share. The fund sanctioned towards Marketing Incentive during 2016-17 for the claim year 2014-15 by the State and Central Govt. is provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund sanctioned by the State Govt.</th>
<th>Fund sanctioned by the Government of India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year of Claim</td>
<td>Amount (Rs. In lakh)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides, a provision of additional marketing incentive of 5% on net sales over and above the existing 10% Marketing Incentive subject to the ceiling of Rs 5.00 lakh for each handloom agency is there through West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2013 for MSME in Textile Sector under West Bengal Textiles Policy 2013-18.

#### C) Promotion of Marketing of Handloom products:

The objective of the scheme is to promote the marketing channels in domestic as well as export market and bring about linkage between the two in a holistic and integrated manner. The performance during 2016-17 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Sales generated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 events &amp; 1 State Handloom Expo</td>
<td>05 events &amp; 1 State Handloom Expo organized</td>
<td>Rs.1312.00 lakhs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2. Mega Handloom Cluster Development Project covering entire Murshidabad & part of Nadia District (Centrally Sponsored):

- Project cost: Revised DPR as per new guideline of NHDP with project cost Rs.72.63 crore has been approved by GOI.

  **Present status:** One Silk Reeling unit, one Printing unit, one Spinning unit & one CFC has been set up and functioning.

#### 3. Comprehensive Handloom Development Programme in Dakshin Dinajpur under BRGF

- Area of Implementation: Entire Dakshin Dinajpur district
- Project cost: 4647.00 lakh
- No. of Beneficiaries: 11,153 Weavers
- Release of fund: Rs. 15.49 Corer has been released by G.O.I.
- Implementing Agency: Tantuja

Yarn Bank is functioning. 50% soft intervention completed. Civil construction for CFC completed up to 60%.
4. Handloom Projects under Natural Fibre Mission:

- No. of Projects: 17 (Bankura -5 including Baluchari Project which has been implemented by Tantuja, Paschim Medinipur -3, Purba Medinipur -3 & Birbhum-6)
- No. of beneficiaries: 8431
- Project cost: Rs.44.10 Crore
- Release of fund: Rs. 23.00 Crore (Cumulative)
- Main components of the projects: Skill up-gradation training, Supply of looms & accessories, Sample development, publicity & Marketing (all are soft interventions), Construction of Worksheds, Setting up of CFC/Dye House (hard interventions)

5. Tanti Sathi (State Sector): Under the scheme, new pit looms and accessories are to be supplied to the handloom weavers & Khadi weavers who have no looms or obsolete/dilapidated loom with back up support for skill development from West Bengal Handloom Circuit scheme 2014, State Design Centre for design development and marketing tie up with Tantuja and Biswa Bangla. During the year 2016-17, 41876 (Cumulative 60260) looms and accessories have been supplied to 41876 (Cumulative 60260) handloom weavers of the different districts of the State with the cost of Rs.73.44 crore (Cumulative Rs.106.53 crore) pertaining to this Directorate.

6. Computerization of PWCS under Revival, Reform & Restructuring (RRR) Package for Handloom Sector (Centrally sponsored)

Under the Scheme, fund is provided for repayment of 100% of principal and 25% of interest as on date of loan becoming NPA and which is overdue as on 31/3/2010 in respect of viable and potentially viable primary weavers co-operative societies and Apex Societies as well as in respect of Individual handloom weavers, Master weavers, Self Help Group and Joint Liability Groups who have taken such loans for handloom weaving purposes, provided the banks agree for sanctioning fresh loans. One of the components of RRR package is computerization of PWCS.

Out of 461 Primary Weavers’ Co-operative Societies (PWCS) assisted under Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for Handloom Sector, 230 PWCSs have been computerized in 1st phase during 2015-16. Computerization works of PWCS has been done by West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited (WEBEL). The Utilisation Certificate and other relevant documents for the 1st phase fund have been sent to the Government of India with a copy to NABARD for sanctioning the balance fund for the computerization of rest eligible PWCS which will be undertaken in 2nd phase after receiving of balance fund from Government of India

7. 10% Price Subsidy on Hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme (Central Sector):

Objective of the scheme is to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible Handloom Weavers under PWCS / Clusters / Groups/ Master weavers / Exporters and Individuals etc. so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector. National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. is the Implementing Agency.

8. Production of Cheaper Variety of Sarees (State Sector)

The Scheme has been introduced with the following objectives:

To provide sustainable employment to the Semi-Skilled weavers of the State, who cannot go for production of value added, diversified and market oriented products after undertaking necessary skill up-gradation training.
To provide cheap but comfortable and durable fabrics to the weaker section of the society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Financial (Rs. in lakh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00 lakh pieces sarees</td>
<td>6.35 lakh pieces saree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To protect the traditional Handloom products of this State from misuse of its traditional unique technique of weaving and to establish their Commercial Brand naming, action has been taken for registration of the traditional Handloom Products of West Bengal under Geographical Indication of Goods Registration & Projection Act, 1999. Santipuri, Baluchari & Dhaniakhali Saree have already been registered under G.I. Act, 1999.

10. Incentives with a special emphasis to Handloom Sector through West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2013 for MSME in Textile Sector under West Bengal Textile Policy 2013-18

The State Govt. has launched New West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2013 for MSME in Textile Sector under Textile Policy 2013-18 with special emphasis on Handloom Sector.

Special incentives

- 6% interest rebate on working capital loan availed from any commercial bank, nationalized bank, financial institutions etc by the Primary Weavers Co-op. Society (PWCS) / Handloom Cluster/ Groups, to ensure maximum capacity utilization of handloom in the State. However, Handloom Cluster/ Groups, who are availing of interest subsidy from the GOI under Credit Card Facility Scheme, will not be eligible for such Rebate. During 2016-17, a sum of Rs.115.40 lakh has been released to 122 PWCSs.

- An eligible PWCS/ Handloom Cluster/ Groups will be entitled to get 10% subsidy on sale value of Handloom Fabrics exported to a country outside India. During 2016-17, a sum of Rs.176.07 lakh has been released for 03 PWCS.

11. West Bengal Handloom Circuit Development Scheme-2014 (State Sector) & ISDS (Centrally Sponsored)

To fill up the gap for skill development training without depending on the financial assistance from GOI. Dept. Of MSME & T along with Dept of TE & T launched West Bengal Handloom Circuit Scheme in 2014 to train 96115 weavers and allied workers at the cost of Rs.44.11 crore. During 2016-17, 22280(cumulative 65821) weavers and allied workers have been imparted training under West Bengal Handloom Circuit.

Under Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) 4203 weavers have been imparted training on product diversification during the year 2016-17.

12. Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) in Fulia, Nadia district

Indian Institute of Handloom Technology has been set up at ITI Campus, Fulia, Nadia with an intake capacity 30 students including state quota of 15 for conducting three years’ Diploma course in Handloom and Textiles Technology from the academic year 2015-16. This institute will provide key personnel for overall Technology up-gradation (weaving, dyeing, designing, printing, finishing etc.) of Handloom sector of West Bengal. Beside this, Certificate course on Handloom Entrepreneur with 4 months duration has also started during 2016-17.

13. Infrastructure Development of Handloom Industry (State sector)

a) A total sum of Rs.303.58 lakh has been sanctioned for setting up of Tanter Haat, Suto-O –Ranger Bazar etc. at Purbasthali, Srirampur Burdwan.

b) Construction of black top link road of 7.615 Km, for easy access of the handloom weavers and other allied workers in the GPs of Samudragarh, Nasaratpur Srirampur under Purbasthali I Block at the cost of Rs.335.00 lakh has been sanctioned.

c) Civil Construction of 1st phase of Udaynarayanpur Rural Handloom Haat in the district of Howrah has been completed. Total project cost is 6.72 crore.

d) Renovation of 4 showrooms of Tantuja at the cost of Rs.86.62 lakh

e) One Exhibition cum display Hall at Fulia Pragati Samity Tantubay Samity Ltd has been set up at the cost of Rs.17.63 lakh.

14. Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 (Central Sector)

In order to protect the Handloom sector from Powerloom & Mill Sector following items are exclusively reserved for production in Handlooms only.

1. Sarees with Extra Warp & Extra Weft Designs, Sarees with Solid coloured Woven Boarder, Tie and Dye Sarees.( Not applicable in case 100% Synthetic Sarees, Sarees with more 45% weight of Man Made Fiber/Yarn, Crepe, Chiffon, Chinon, Georgettes and Cotton Voile, Grey/Bleached Silk Sarees having border in extra warp design). 2.Dhuti (Not applicable for Dhoties made out of 100% Synthetic Fiber/Yarn Dhoties made in blends or union with more 45% by weight

15. Weavers Credit Card

The Weavers Credit Card scheme was introduced with an aim to provide adequate and timely assistance from the Banking Institutions to the weavers to meet their credit requirement by providing credit at concessional rate. Maximum limit to individual weavers is up to Rs. 2 lakh. Normally no margin money is required for limits up to Rs. 25,000/- and 20% margin is required for limits above that. Up to 31st March, 2016, 65,837 WCC (cumulative) have been issued and loan disbursed Rs 17.99 crore (cumulative). The scheme is going to be replaced by Mudra Scheme for Weavers from 1st July, 2016.

Status regarding issuing of Weavers Credit Card and disbursal of loan during 2016-17(as on 30.06.16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weavers Credit Card issued in 2016-17</th>
<th>Total amount of loan sanctioned during 2016-17(Rs. In lakh)</th>
<th>Total amount of loan disbursed during 2016-17(Rs. In lakh)</th>
<th>Total amount of loan disbursed during 2016-17(Rs. In lakh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>63.72</td>
<td>37.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. MUDRA Scheme for Weavers:

It is a new scheme which, in coordination with the office of DC (Handlooms), Ministry of Textile, GOI, has been formulated by incorporating the benefits of Margin money assistance, Interest subsidy and Credit Guarantee. These benefits are the sub-component of ‘Concessional Credit’ component of package approved for handloom sector by GOI. One of the additional features of the new scheme is that the Ministry is providing the subsidy fund directly to the bank and not through NABARD. The purpose of the scheme is to provide the financial assistance for working capital requirement of the existing Handloom Weavers involved in weaving activity. Need based loan subject to ceiling of Rs. 5.00 lakh per borrower, by way of Cash Credit/Working Capital shall be provided. The Working Capital limit would be assessed by simplified turnover method. 20% of project cost (Working Capital Requirement) shall be treated as margin to be borne by the Government with a maximum of Rs. 10000/-. Rest amount shall be borne by borrower.

Status regarding issuing of Weavers Mudra Card and disbursal of loan during 2016-17(as on 31.03.17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total no. of weavers Mudra Cards issued by the Banks during the Year 2016-17</th>
<th>Total amount of loan sanctioned during the Year 2016-17 (Rs. In lakh)</th>
<th>Total amount of loan disbursed during the Year 2016-17(Rs. In lakh)</th>
<th>No. of RUPAY Card issued during 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>620</td>
<td>502.85</td>
<td>276.49</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. State participation in Share capital support to the State Controlled Spinning Mills (State Sector)

There are six spinning mills under the administrative control of MSSET Deptt. The State Government has been extending financial support for their smooth functioning. During 2016-17 a total sum of Rs.11348.19 lakh (Plan + Non Plan) released to the Spinning Mills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLAN FUND RELEASED TO SPINNING MILLS IN THE YEAR 2016-17:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Spinning Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayurakshi Cotton Mills Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangsabati Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamralipta Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
18. State participation in Share capital support to the West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. (State Sector)

The West Bengal State Handloom Weavers’ Coop. Society Ltd. (Tantuja), established on 1st October, 1954, is the apex society of Primary Weavers (Handloom) Co-op Societies of West Bengal under the administrative control of the Govt of West Bengal. Tantuja procures handloom fabrics from cooperative societies and artisans through 12 procurement centres and 2 training cum production centres and has 83 sales outlets all over India. Major works/achievements during 2016-17 include completion of extension & upgradation of two TCPC at Purba Medinipur, repair & renovation of three showrooms at Jalpaiguri, Krishnanagar and Belur, showroom cum godown at Digha, starting of civil works for a Tant Haat, viz, Tantrosree at Purbasthali, Purga Burdwan with State Govt funding, opening of an exclusive Baluchari Showroom in Kolkata under Revival of Baluchari Project etc.

Tantuja has been conferred upon with “Images Retail Award, 2016” for the best “Turnaround Story”.

The State Govt. contributes to the State share participation in share capital of the Apex Society for strengthening its share capital base as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2016-17</th>
<th>Share Capital of Tantuja</th>
<th>Target (Rs. in lakh)</th>
<th>Achievement (Rs. in lakh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business Turnover of Tantuja is as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Turnover</th>
<th>Operating Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Rs. 147.93 Cr</td>
<td>Rs. 6.19 Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. Integrating tourism with handloom & handicraft at 3 selected circuits:
Survey for developing handloom & handicraft integrated Tourism Circuit at 3 selected circuits (Purulia-Bankura-Bishnupur, Kalna-Katwa-Nabadweep-Shanitpur, and Uttar Dinajpur-Dakhin Dinajpur-Malda) and to create a road map to develop them to help expand market opportunity for tourism, handloom & handicraft stakeholders has been completed. Coordination with Tourism Department is going on.

B. WELFARE SCHEMES:

1) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) [Central Sector]:
This is a group Insurance Scheme for Weavers and allied workers between 18 to 59 years having 50% of the annual income from weaving. Insurance Benefit includes: Natural Death: Rs.60,000/-, Accidental Death: Rs.1,50,000/-, Partial Disability: Rs.75,000/-, Permanent Disability: Rs.1,50,000/-. An add-on benefit of the scheme under the sub scheme known as “Siksha Sahajog Yojana” is scholarship of Rs.300/-per quarter per child of a beneficiary studying in standard IX to XII for a maximum period of four years subject to a maximum of 2 children. The Premium per weaver per year is Rs. 470/- out of which Rs.80/- only is to be paid by the weaver.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance during 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target of enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80,000 weavers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) for Handloom Weaver Family [Centrally Sponsored]
This is a health insurance scheme for the weavers. The beneficiaries under RSBY are entitled to hospitalization coverage up to Rs. 30,000/- for most of the diseases that require hospitalization. The government has even fixed the package rates for the hospitals for a large number of interventions. Pre-existing conditions are covered from day one and there is no age limit. The coverage extends to five members of the family which includes the head of household, spouse and up to three dependents. The beneficiaries need to pay only Rs. 30/- as registration fee while Central and State Government pays the premium to the insurer selected by the State Government on the basis of a competitive bidding. During 2016-17, 128219 of Handloom weaver families of 16 districts have been covered.

3) Old Age Pension to Weavers [State Sector]
A weaver above 60 years of age having no source of income and a member of a handloom cooperative society for at least 10 years is eligible to receive pension under the scheme @ Rs. 1000/- per month. The amount admissible as pension has been enhanced from Rs. 750/- to Rs 1000/- w.e.f 01.02.2015 and the quota of beneficiaries under this scheme has been
enhanced from 4375 to 5000 w.e.f. 01.10.2015. During the year 4,913 weavers received pension @ Rs. 1000/- per month. An amount of Rs. 589.56 lakh was expended in 2016-17 from the state exchequer for this purpose.

Paschim Banga Resham Shilpi samabay Mahasangha Ltd:

Paschim Banga Resham Shilpi Mahasangha, a State Level Apex Cooperative Society on silk products was registered on the 28th day of January, 1958 under West Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940 (Bengal Act XXI of 1940). It came under the purview of this Directorate in 2017.

Business process at present at PBRSSM Ltd

- The turnover of PBRSSM Ltd is Rs. 3,64,76,294/- in 2016-17.
- In sync with the objectives of PBRSSM Ltd, the value of Silk fabrics procured by PBRSSM Ltd in 2016-17 increased to Rs 2,34,09,545/-, an increase of 23.15% over the previous year.

Special achievements

- E- Marketing of PBRSSM Ltd products through Flipkart which has a tie-up with the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
- Through the ERP System devised by the NIC, PBRSSM Ltd. has started procuring, marketing, managing the HR and Payroll online through [http://reshamshilpi.gov.in](http://reshamshilpi.gov.in) which is hosted at the West Bengal State Data Centre, Mani Bhawan, Salt Lake.

Future projects, as envisaged

- Marketing in bulk and retail through E-Commerce sites which operate overseas
- Suitably modifying the existing ERP System to accept and deliver bulk orders.
- Acquiring Handloom Mark to facilitate E-Commerce.
Powerloom Sector:

There is an estimated number of 16000 Powerlooms in the State giving employment to about 40000 people with an estimated annual production of 225 Mn Sq mtr.. The Powerlooms are mainly concentrated in the districts of Nadia and Burdwan. Small number of Powerlooms may also be found in Howrah, Hooghly, 24 Parganas (North), Purba & Paschim Medinipur, and Murshidabad districts. The looms are mostly conventional in nature and are engaged in the production of traditional items.

Having considered skilled manpower development as an important intervention towards development of the industry the State Govt. supplements the Govt. of India’s scheme for training in Powerloom Weaving by providing compensation for wages loss to the trainees who undergo training at the Powerloom Service Centre, Ranaghat under the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. During 2016-17, 64 persons have been imparted training in Powerloom weaving involving an expenditure of Rs. 3.49 lakh.

Hosiery sector:

Hosiery enterprises in the State are mainly located in Kolkata, North 24 Pgs., Howrah & Nadia districts. There are about 18500 Hosiery units in the State employing approximately 1.18 lakh people. The sector is mainly driven by private entrepreneurs. During the last few years the sector has registered growth with consequential diversification of products. The estimated annual production of the sector is approx 181 million kg.

Readymade Garments Sector:

There are approximately 23200 Readymade Garments manufacturing units in the State. About 3 lakh people are engaged in Readymade Garments Sector. Garments manufacturing units are mostly located in Kolkata, North & South 24 Parganas, Howrah & Nadia districts. Private entrepreneurs are the major players in the Sector. The annual production of the sector is estimated at 496 million pieces.

Long term tailoring training is imparted under training courses of 2 years/3 years duration at Govt. Tailoring Institute, Kolkata. During 2016-17, 31 candidates have been imparted such training.

Besides the above long term training the Directorate sponsors candidates for Short Term Training under different courses of Garments Manufacturing & Surface Ornamentation at the Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC). In respect of such sponsored candidates course fees payable by the candidates are borne by the State Govt. Stipends are also provided by the State Govt. to candidates after successful participation in the training programme. During 2016-17, 378 persons have been trained involving a fund of Rs. 32.34 lakh at Birpara area of Alipurduar District.

Computerised machine embroidery is gaining prominence now a days. In order to develop trained manpower for the industry training has been started. 32 persons got training during 2016-17 against an expenditure of Rs.1.62 lakh.