

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

1988-91

FORTYNINETH REPORT

( Eighth Assembly )



Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the  
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General  
of India for the years  
1974-75 ( Civil ); 1976-77 ( Civil ); 1977-78 ( Civil );  
1979-80 ( Civil ); 1980-81 ( Civil ) and 1981-82  
( Civil ) pertaining to Sericulture &  
Weaving Department, Government  
of Assam.

Presented to the House on 7th June, 1989

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIA,  
DISPUR : GUWAHATI-781006.



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(i)

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

( 1988- 91 )

### CHAIRMAN :

1. Shri A. F. Golam Osmani

### MEMBERS :

2. Shri Kamala Kalita.
3. Shri Pradip Hazarika
4. Shri Joy Prakash Tewari.
5. Shri Silvius Condpan
6. Shri Sheikh Abdul Hamid.
7. Shri Ramendra De.
8. Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary.
9. Shri Abdul Rob Laskar.
10. Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita and
11. Shri Abhijit Sarma

### SECRETARIAT :

1. Shri S. N. Deka, Secretary.
2. Shri S. K. Changmai, Liaison Officer.
3. Shri A. R. Chetia, Under Secretary
4. Shri P. Deuri Bharali. Superintendent.



(ii)

## PREFATORY REMARKS

1. I, Shri A. F. Golam Osmani, Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts, having been authorised to submit the report on their behalf, present this Fortynineth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the audit paragraphs contained in the Report of the C.A.G. of India (civil) for the years, 1974-75, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 pertaining to the Sericulture & Weaving Department of the Government of Assam.

2. The Reports of the C.A.G. of India (civil) for the years 1974-75, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 were presented to the House on 7th December 1976, 21st February, 1979, 29th March, 1981, 27th February, and 12th March 1984 respectively.

3. The Reports of the C.A.G. of India (civil) for the years as above on Sericulture & Weaving Department were considered by the present Committee in their sittings held on 3rd November, 1988.

4. The Committee has considered the draft report and finalised the same in its sitting held on 5th June 1989.

5. The Committee places on records their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to the Committee by the Accountant General (Audit) Assam Shri S. K. Podder, I.A & A.S. and other officers and staff. The Committee also expresses their thanks to the departmental witness of the Sericulture & Weaving Department for their full co-operation and also to Finance Department for sending representatives to assist the Committee.

A. F. GOLAM OSMANI,  
Chairman,  
Public Accounts Committee.



## CHAPTER—I

### SERICULTURE

#### A—General

#### Audit para 3.17/CAG—1974-75 (Civil)

1.1.1. Sericulture has been a traditional cottage industry with immense influence on the rural life and culture of the Assamese people living in Hills & Plains of the State. People engage themselves in this industry largely during agricultural off season. Three types of silk worms viz., Eri, Muga and Mulberry are reared in Assam.

1.1.2. The Sericulture & Weaving Department was a component part of the Rural Development Department untill 1st April, 1957 when this Department was constituted as a separate Department. This Department is responsible for matters relating to Sericulture, Weaving, Khadi & Village Industries, establishment of Sericulture Research Station, training in Sericulture and Weaving. This Deptt. function as an Administrative Deptt. in respect of 3 autonomous bodies, viz, Assam Khadi & Village Industries Board, Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation Ltd, and ARTFED.

1.1.3. During the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) Rs. 67.66 lakh were spent on schemes on Eri (Rs. 29.64 lakh) Muga (Rs. 22.12 lakh) and Mulberry (Rs. 15.90 lakh) The details of expenditure during the period under Report i.e, 1974-75 to 81-82 as per Finance Accounts, Govt. of Assam in respect of sericulture industries are :

Year	Non-plan	Plan	Total
1974-75	39,98,627	9,67,437	49,66,064
1975-76	15,34,000	21,00,000	36,34,000
1976-77	47,46,868	41,75,867	89,22,735
1977-78	60,08,358	34,43,145	94,51,503
1978-79	52,14,986	35,11,040	87,26,026
1979-80	68,40,735	35,81,379	1,04,22,114
1980-81	1,01,46,156	58,97,982	1,60,44,138
1981-82	96,55,797	57,23,241	1,53,79,038



## OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1.4. From the above it appears that in the period under reference both on plan and Non-plan counts the expenditure registered three fold increase. In the premises it is natural to ask about the impact and result of such substantial investment made. From the discussion made in this report in connection with audit objections raised, P.A.C. have observed that in most cases the Department could not give any coherent and comprehensive accounts of their activities and results obtained in relation to the schemes taken up. Attempts were made to assess the results obtained from Plan projections made in 4th, 5th & 6th Plan periods. Except for some dry statistical figures having no worth while analysis, nothing is available to understand the present position of this important home industry having deep roots in socio-cultural pattern of the State.

1.1.5. The Committee would like to know the achievement both physical & fiscal on Sericulture during the fifth & sixth plan period with a brief write up of the plan scheme implemented by the Department.

## B - Eri Culture.

1.2.1. The audit has pointed out that the Directorate of Sericulture and Waaving had 12 eri seed grainages at the commencement of the Fourth Plan and two new grainages were established during the Fourth Plan at Jamuguri (1969-70) and Rangali (1970-71). The grainages were to prepare disease free layings for distribution to private rearers at a nominal price (Rs. 5.40 per hundred layings) and also to produce out cocoons. Cut cocoons were produced by private rearers as well. The Directorate had also ten eri concentration centres in 1968-69 and 33 new centres were added during the 4th Plan period. The Centres were to grow food plants and supply their leaves to rearers in villages around the centres free of cost. In return the reares were expected to supply the Cocoons to the nearest grainage at the rates fixed by Govt. Besides these, other measures envisaged for expansion of eri culture in the State were financial and technical assistance to the aided graineurs for increasing production of eri seeds, supply of rearing appliances, etc. at subsidised rates, loan to private institution for production of eri yarn and supply of improved spinning appliances at concessional rates. The target and achievements during the fourth plan were expressed in terms of production of eri laying and Cocoons. There were no records



in the Directorate to show that any target were fixed for production of eri silk as such during the Fourth plan period. The Directorate also did not report production of eri silk in the State to the Government.

1.2.2 The table below gives the year-wise targets for production of eri seed layings and the production reported by Directorate to Government as well as details of production of layings the grainages, at eri concentration centres and aided graineurs, as available from the record of the Directorate during the Fourth plan.

Year	Target	Production reported to the Government	Production in the grainages	Production in eri concentration centres	Production of aided graineurs
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(number in lakhs)					
1969-70	11.00	13.50	6.83	0.63	1.05
1970-71	15.50	12.00	6.33	1.07	2.42
1971-72	15.50	12.50	6.38	0.67	1.45
1972-73	16.00	12.35	3.88	1.18	1.03
1973-74	17.50	13.35	5.47	1.29	1.03
	79.50	63.70	28.89	4.84	6.98
				40.71	

1.2.3. The details of the balance production (63.70 lakhs) minus (40.71 lakhs) were not available in the record of the Directorate (April to July 1975). Further, production records of six grainages disclosed that whereas production of layings in three grainages at Dprmkhol, Goreshwar and Haflong was 4.25 lakhs (Dormikhhol 1.68 lakhs, Goreshwar 1.07 lakhs and Haflong 1.50 lakhs) during 1969-70 to 1973-74, production reported to the Directorate was 5.85 lakh layings (Dormikhhol 2.70 lakhs, Goreshwar 1.34 lakhs and Haflong 1.79 lakhs).



1.2.4. The table below shows the yearwise targets for production of eri cut cocoons. Production reported by the Directorate to the Government and production as per records of the Directorate during the Fourth Plan :—

Year	Target	Production reported to the Government	Production as per records of the Directorate
(1)	(2)	(3) ( Kilograms in lakhs )	(4)
1969-70	2.20	2.10	0.95
1970-71	2.45	2.10	1.18
1971-72	2.60	2.30	0.65
1972-73	2.70	1.99	0.73
1973-74	2.90	2.21	0.76
	<hr/> 12.85	<hr/> 10.70	<hr/> 4.27

1.2.5. No records were available in the Directorate to reconcile the discrepancy between the figures in columns (3) and (4) while fixing the price for supply of layings to the rearers in 1969, the Directorate had adopted production norm of 200 cocoons from one laying and 2,000 cut cocoons would weight one kilogram. On the basis of this norm, 63.70 lakhs layings (as reported by the Directorate to Government) should have produced 6.37 lakhs kilograms of cut cocoons against the reported production of 10.70 lakh kilograms.

The Directorate has not analysed the reasons for the short fall in production of layings and cut cocoons.

1.2.6. Other points noticed in audit during test check (April to July 1975) of the records of six grainages at Bar-duar, Dormikhol, Goreshwar, Haflong, Jamuguri and Kokrajhar were as under :—

(i) Layings are produced out of seed cocoons. In addition to their own production of seed cocoons, the grainages bought seed cocoons from private rearers also. While fixing the price for sale of layings out of seed cocoons would be 25 per cent of the cocoons used. Layings prepared during 1969-70 to 1973-74 in these grainages were far below this percentage as shown below :—



Name of grainage	Number of cocoons used	Number of layings produced (number in lakhs)	Percentage
Barduar	0.91	0.04	4
Dermikhoh	16.46	1.68	10
Goreswar	7.16	1.08	15
Haflong	5.19	0.98	19
Jamuguri	2.29	0.34	15
Kokrajhar	1.43	0.33	23

The layings prepared out of some lots of seed cocoons in Barduar grainage were even more than 40 per cent during the same period. This percentage had also been achieved in 1964 when Nongpoh eri grainage (transferred to the Government of Meghalaya in April 1970) was with the Directorate.

It was also noticed that in Kokrajhar grainage, there was a decline in the percentage of layings prepared out of cocoons from year to year as under :—

Year	Percentage
1969-70	27
1970-71	22
1971-72	21
1972-73	21
1973-74	19

In the following cases, seeds bought from outside rearers yielded lower production :

Name of grainage	Year	Percentage of layings prepared from the cocoons harvested in the grainage	Percentage of layings prepared from the cocoons purchased from outside
1. Kokrajhar	1969-70	27	25
	1972-73	21	20
2. Dormikhoh	1969-70	17	9
	1970-71	17	12



(ii) The production of cocoons depends on the number of eggs per laying. According to the booklet "Sericulture in Assam" published by the Directorate in March 1962, 300 to 500 eggs are laid in each laying. Test check of the records of grainages showed that the average number of eggs per laying was generally less than 200 except in case of Barduar grainage where the maximum number of eggs per laying was 490 in 1971.

(iii) Eri worms spin cocoons of different weight depending on the kind of leaves on which these are fed. As per departmental booklet on statistical data 1,650, 2,050 and 1,950 cut cocoons yield a kilogram of silk when the worms are fed with castor, kesseru, topioca and lopicatioster leaves respectively. In Assam, most of the grainages have castor plantations and the worms are, therefore, fed mostly with castor leaves. Check of records of these grainages for different years disclosed that the number of cut cocoons in one kilogram ranged from 1,998 to 3,807.

1.2.7. (i) The Fourth plan had envisaged that the existing (65) aided graineurs would produce 3.25 lakhs layings per year at the rate of 0.05 lakh layings each graineur. The Directorate had no records to show the individual achievement. The Directorate also gave bonus to those graineurs who produced a minimum of 0.05 lakh layings in a year. It was noticed that bonus was paid to only 16 out of 65 graineurs in 1969-70 during the entire period.

(ii) The Directorate gave loan to institutions and societies to purchase raw materials and appliances for rearing of worms etc. Rupees 0.64 lakh were paid to 15 institutions/societies before commencement of the Fourth Plan and Rs. 0.25 lakhs were paid during the Fourth Plan period. The outstandings overdue on the 31st March 1975 were Rs. 0.71 lakh including interest of Rs. 0.17 lakh.

(iii) Rupees 0.83 lakh were spent on supplying improved appliances as concessional rates to 483 grantees. Actual payees' receipts for Rs. 0.28 lakh were not available (April to July 1975).

1.2.8. The Department, vide their written memorandum submitted to the Committee, have stated that in the sector production was recorded in cut cocoons, not in raw silk.



It is because of the fact that the entire quantity of cut cocoons produced is not converted to raw silk by the rearers. The traditional growers after meeting their own demands of Eri fabrics the surplus production of Eri cocoon is sold out. In view of above, the Department did not maintain production record of Eri Silk. However this is noted for future guidance.

1.2.9. As regards this para, it appears from the Accountant General's report that while analysing the progress, they have taken the annual plan target of Eri Seed production of whole State (column 2 page 91) where as production of only Govt. institutions have been shown as achievement. A huge quantity of Eri seeds produced by the village rearer by way of multiplication from the basic seeds supplied from the Govt. Grainages under technical guidance of the field officer have not been recorded with total production. Due to this reason of erroneous accounting procedure this difference of reported figure and actual production arose.

The Managers of concerned three grainages were instructed to Maintain the production records properly in seed production Register and seed supply Register so that in future there is no discrepancy in reporting.

1.2.10. The target for production of eri cut cocoons in the entire State during the 4th plan period was fixed at 12.85 lakhs kg. against which 10.70 lakhs kg. were produced in the State which was reported to the Govt. As pointed out by audit the record of production of Eri cocoons during the said plan period was 4.27 lakhs kg. In eri sector eri cocoons produced by the private rearers also which were scattered through out the State. The Departmental field staff can not cover all the eri growing areas where such eri cut cocoons are produced in large scale during the 4th plan period the production of eri cut cocoons was estimated at 6.43 lakhs kg. in those uncovered areas and reported to the Govt. alongwith the figures of production recorded the Directorate.

As regards production of eri cut cocoons as per norms, production of eri cut cocoons should be 6.37 lakh kg. against rearing of 63.70 lakhs layings. But the production of eri cut cocoons was 10.70 lakhs kg. But actually the position of rearing of eri layings throughout the State was such more than that of the figure as shown in the report.



During the said plan period in addition to 63.70 lakh layings in all the in growing areas. This excess figure of rearing i. e., 43.3 lakh layings could not be shown to the audit as this was an estimated figure of the private sector.

1.2.11. Sericulture deals with the rearing of Silk worms. The seasonal variation and vagaries of nature i. e. too much rainfall, high temperature, high humidity, etc. effect the growth of worms. When the climatic fluctuation is too much egg laying capacity and number of eggs fall together with the size & weights of cocoons. Again health of worms and therefore the silk production also depend on food plants of worms on which it is fed. This plantation of food plants warm; and therefore the silk production cannot be maintained as per desired level due to draughts and flood etc. For these reasons seed production. cocoon cannot be maintained all the years as per norms



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.2.12. The departmental replies could not make it clear as to the basis on which the production of 63.70 lakhs of Eri seed laying were reported by the Directorate when details of production of 40.70 lakhs only were made available at the time of audit; and how production of 5.83 lakhs layings in Dormikhol, Goreswar and Haflong grainages could be reported to Government by the Directorate when record shown to audit disclosed actual production of 4.25 lakhs layings only.

1.2.13 The Committee feels that the discrepancies should be reconciled and in future the same set of records from which the statistical figures of target, achievements etc. are computed may also be produced to audit, so that any discrepancies between the departmental figures and the audited figures if there be any can be understood in their proper perspective.

## C—I

## C—Muga culture

1.3.1 The Directorate had (1975) six farms for exclusively producing muga cocoons and 7 farms for producing muga cocoons in addition to the production of mulberry cocoons. One of the farms had not started production as it was set up in 1970-71 and the gestation period is between 5 to 6 years. It was envisaged that in the Fourth Plan the level of production of muga raw silk in Assam would increase from 0.69 lakh kilogram to 1 lakh kilograms and that of muga seed cocoons would increase from 12 lakhs per year at the commencement of the plan to 20 lakhs per year at the end of it.

(ii) The physical targets and achievements of muga basic seed cocoons and muga raw silk during 1969-70 to 1973-74 for the State as a whole were as under :—



## (a) Muga basic seed Cocoons

Year	Target		Achievement
	As reported by the directorates to the Government		Production of Gov- n-ment firms as a <sup>crail</sup> lable in the records of Directorate.
	(number in lakhs)		
1969-70	13.00	13.00	4.53
1970-71	14.00	13.00	6.31
1971-72	14.00	13.00	5.11
1972-73	15.00	14.50	5.38
1973-74	20.00	16.40	7.73
	<hr/> 76.00	<hr/> 69.90	<hr/> 29.06

No records were available in the Directorate to account for the balance production of 40.84 lakhs seed cocoons.

## C-2

## (b) Muga Raw Silk

Year	Target		Achievement
	Production reported by the Directorate to the Government		Actual production as per records of the Directorate
	(in lakh kilogram)		
1969-70	0.75	0.72	0.07
1970-71	0.75	0.72	0.05
1971-72	0.75	0.72	0.04
1972-73	0.80	0.75	0.06
1973-74	1.00	0.75	0.06
	<hr/> 4.05	<hr/> 3.66	<hr/> 0.28



The Government had fixed (January 1974) the price for sale of seed cocoons to the rearer on the basis that 20 cocoons would be produced out of each seed cocoons and 4,000 cocoons would yield one kilogram of raw silk. On this basis, 69.90 lakhs seed cocoons (production reported by the Directorate to the Government) should have produced about 14 crore cocoons to yield 0.35 lakh kilograms of raw silk during the Fourth Plan period. But the production of raw silk reported was 3.66 lakh kilograms. No records were available in the Directorate to reconcile the difference. Test check also disclosed that actual production of cocoons from 3.98 lakhs seed cocoons in Mangaldoi, Khanapara, Kokrajhar and Sanchua muga farms ranged from 0.03 to 8.05 per cocoon during the Fourth Plan period.

The number of seed cocoons used for layings, disease free layings obtained, cocoons obtained from layings, number of cocoons per laying and average number of cocoons out of one seed cocoon at Khanapara and Kokrajhar muga seed farms and Sericultural farms at Sanchua and Mangaldoi are given below :—

Name of the Farm	Year	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Khanapara Muga Farm	1969-70		30,915	5,239	1,59,643	30	5	
	1970-71		37,915	6,840	1,10,617	17	3	
	1971-72		52,443	6,909	1,35,000	20	2.5	
	1972-73		26,165	5,117	1,03,780	20	4	
	1973-74		22,796	4,230	1,06,680	25	4.6	
Kokrajhar Muga Farm	1969-70		20,250	3,195	1,42,000	44.5	7	
	1970-71		33,500	5,340	1,66,395	31.5	5	
	1971-72		28,000	5,346	1,11,500	21	4	
	1972-73		36,500	7,101	2,16,500	3	6	
	1973-74		22,018	4,727	1,86,654	38	8.5	
Sanchua Seri Farm	1969-70		4,000	454	15,220	34	3.8	
	1970-71		6,000	445	23,190	52	3.8	



	1971-72	12,000	655	8,350	15	0.3
	1972-73	4,000	515	1,150	2.2	0.3
	1973-74	8,000	632	26,150	42	3.3
Mangaldoi Seri Farm	1969-70	11,300	924	14,332	15.5	1.1
	1970-71	7,300	529	11,013	21.9	1.5
	1971-72	7,000	450	13,000	28.8	1.8
	1972-73	6,000	950	13,960	14.7	2.3
	1973-74	23,000	2,353	60,700	24.4	2.5

The average production of seed cocoons per laying ranged from 2.2 to 5.2. This was far below the ideal of 100 seed cocoons per laying envisaged in the above mentioned booklet 'Sericulture in Assam'.

- (iii) For production of seed cocoons, the farms purchased seed cocoons from outside also. It was noticed that production of cocoons out of seed cocoons purchased was generally higher than the production out of those produced in the farms as shown below :—

Year	Source of seed cocoons	Seed Cocoons used	Seed cocoons produced	Average seed Cocoons produced out of 1 seed cocoon
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1969-70	Purchased from outside rearers	15,415	1,29,232	8.4
	Received from Government farms	11,500	29,410	2.6
1970-71	Purchased from outside rearers	12,660	49,025	3.9
	Received from Government farm	28,455	55,032	2.0
1971-72	Purchased from outside rearers	11,900	32,336	3.0



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	Received from Government farm	36,343	95,351	2.6
1972-73	Purchased from outside rearers	4,000	62,885	15.7
	Received from Government farms	19,610	40,895	2.1
1973-74	Purchased from outside rearers	7,000	8,695	1.2
	Received from Government farms	22,550	98,125	4.4

(iv) Actual production of cocoons in the farms was below the targets for production for the farms. Illustrative details for five farms are given below:-

Location of the farm	Target (number in lakhs)	Actual production
(1)	(2)	(3)
Khanapara	5.00	4.26
Kokrajhar	6.00	4.60
Sanchua	2.40	0.76
Titabar	2.50	0.95
Gaurisagar	2.50	1.24

The value of seed cocoons produced in these farms as compared with the expenditure incurred on these farms was as under :—

Location of the farm	Expenditure during Fourth plan period (in lakhs of rupees)	Value of seed cocoons produced (in lakhs of rupees)
(1)	(2)	(3)
Khanapara	0.86	0.13
Kokrajhar	0.63	0.16



Sanchua	0.34	0.06
Titabar	0.29	0.11
Gaurisagar	0.24	0.08

1.3.2. It was also noticed that a considerable number of cocoons produced were declared stifled and, therefore, unsuitable for seeds. In Kokarajhar farm, out of 8.23 lakhs cocoons produced, 3.63 lakhs were declared stiled and, therefore, unsuitable for seeds.

(v) Rupees 0.45 lakh were paid as loan to 21 sericulturist during 1969-70. No record of loans or the interest thereon has been maintained so far (July 1975).

(vi) Rupees 0.14 lakh were paid as bonus to nuga rearers at Rs.5 per 1,000 seed cocoons for production in excess of 5,000 numbers for each individual rearer per year. No bonus was paid during 1972-73 to 1973-74 indicating that the target level of production was not achieved by any of the individual rearers in these years.

1.3.3 Regarding the point raised by Audit test check, the Department replied :

(1) Bonus is paid to aided Graineurs according to fund available in the scheme for the purpose. Less payment or non-payment in any year donot indicate less production. Now the scheme is discontinued. From this para it appears that while analysing and assessing the muga basic seed, the Accountant General has taken the target of Annual plan of State as a whole, but the actual achievement has been recorded in respect of Government Farms only. Thereby the field production in the private sector has been omitted and hence this discrepancy occurred. As a matter of fact private production of Muga has been left out. As far as Muga Raw Silk is concerned the Department cannot furnish exact production figures due to the fact that the vital commercial muga producing area is upper Assam region, but muga is mostly taken out by private traders out of the region for commercial reeling. For this reason exact Raw Silk production cannot be ascertained. For this reason the department is to depend to some extent, on estim-



ation of figures in addition to collected data. Muga Silk worm rearing is done outside from hatching to maturing & therefore worms are subjected to natural hazards like heavy rain, Hail-storms, storms, strong wind & enemies like birds, bats, etc. and diseases like febrines also. For these reasons rearing can not be controlled as per desired way leading the high mortality to loss of worms even at the matured stage. For the above reasons crop may even totally fail.

(ii) These Loans were granted by the District officers and the loan ledgers are maintained by the respective district officers and as such no record is maintained in the Head Quarter.

(iii) Bonus is paid as per availability of fund in the scheme for the years concerned. Non-payment of bonus does not indicate less or nil production. Bonus is only grants-in-aid, not compulsory.

## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1.3.4. The committee feels that the audit observations in this part are similar with the paras on Mulberry culture dealt in the subsequent paragraphs, hence the Committee would formulate its observations and recommendations along with the subsequent paras.

### D—Mulberry Culture.

1.4.1. The department has (1975) seven seri farms producing mulberry silk and also small quantities of muga. Mulberry silk is also produced by private rearers. It was envisaged that during the Fourth Plan production of mulberry raw silk would increase in Assam from the level of 0.12 lakh kilograms to 0.80 lakh kilograms. Similarly, the production of mulberry layings (produced only in Government seri farms) was expected to increase from the level of 7 lakhs to 9 lakhs. The increase in production was to be achieved through (i) increased production in the seri farms, (ii) establishment of parent stock station for multivoltine silk worms in the existing farms, (iii) production of foreign race by expansion of existing farms at Mangaldoi and Gaurisa-



gar, (iv) establishment of extension centres, (v) collective mulberry garden and (vi) supply of rearing appliances free of cost to selected rearers.

1.4.2. The table below given the year-wise target for production mulberry layings, production reported by the directorate to the Government and production of Government farms including mulberry gardens and chowki rearing centres during the Fourth Plan—

Year	Target	Production reported to the Government	Actual production in the farms including mulberry gardens and chowki rearing centres as per record of the Directorate
(number in lakhs)			
1969-70	6.00	5.50	4.68
1970-71	6.00	5.50	3.58
1971-72	7.00	6.30	4.73
1972-73	8.00	7.50	5.14
1973-74	9.00	6.06	5.12
Total	36.00	30.86	23.25

No records were available in the Directorate to reconcile the discrepancy between the figures reported and the actual production to account for the balance of 7.60 lakh layings.

1.4.3. The following were the targets and achievements production of raw silk in the State :—

Year	Target	Production reported to the Government	Actual production as per records of the Directorate
(kilograms in lakhs)			
1969-70	0.135	0.124	0.04
1970-71	0.138	0.126	0.03



1971-72	0.148	0.126	0.04
1972-73	0.168	0.135	0.05
1973-74	0.188	0.130	0.05
Total	0.777	0.641	0.21

1.4.4. The normal production norm taken in the price fixation of layings was 200 cocoons per laying, 2,000 cocoons to weight one kilogram of cocoons to produce of raw silk. On this basis, 30.86 lakhs layings (as reported to the Government) should have produced 61.70 crores of cocoons which would have produce 0.206 lakh kilograms of raw silk during the Plan period. But the figure reported was 0.641 lakh kilograms of raw silk. The actual production of 0.21 lakh kilograms of raw silk as per records of the Directorate was, however, only 27 per cent of the target.

1.4.5. The Directorate had not worked out the laying which should be produced out of seed cocoons. While the records of Gaurisagar and Titabar farms disclosed that the percentages of layings to the cocoons used were 39 and 34 respectively, the percentages in Sanchua and Mangaldoi farms ranged from 18 to 27 during the Plan period.

1.4.6. Target of production of layings in Mangaldoi farm was fixed at 1 lakh per year but this was not achieved in any of the years. Similar shortfall was notice in Gaurisagar farm also (0.19 lakh).

1.4.7. Against the expenditure of Rs. 15.90 lakhs, the value of layings produced in the farms worked out Rs.0.25 lakh.

1.4.8. The Department, in their written repiles have stated that the Government Mulberry farms do not produce any Mulberry silk but produce only diseasefree seeds for distribution to village rearer. The discrepancy pointed out by A. G. was due to only want of detailed records. It was not possible for the deptt. to produce all the detailed records to A. G. as some the records were lost and damaged in the incomplete rent. House during the shifting



periods of deptt. from Shillong to Guwahati in year 1973. The worms Mulberry production cited at this para are not correct. And so the calculation done by A. G. in case of Mulberry Silk production is also not correct. The production of layings from Cocoons is calculated on ratio basis which is generally 1:5 on average. This ratio can not be maintained rigidly due to fluctuation of weather. As for instance due to sudden excessive heat during summer sometimes pupa inside cocoon die causing less emergence months. The production of hybrid seeds in farms entirely depend upon the availability of foreign race mala seed cocoons from outside State. This is one of the main reasons of lower production. The Government Seed farms are not run on commercial basis on the calculation of loss & profit. The main purpose of seed farms is to supply disease free seeds to the Village rearers at a very nominal price. The actual benefit is reaped by village rearers

## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.4.9. The audit paras gives the targetted and actual production of Muga & Mulberry silk upto 1973-74. For realistic study on this important culture of the people inhabiting in Assam, the Committee would like to know the following.

- (a) The planned target and actuals of production of Eri, Muga and Mulberry during the Fifth and Sixth plan periods ;
- (b) As reported in audit, there were marked short-fall as per norms of layings compared to seed cocoons and in production of cccoons compared to the number of layings. The reasons may be analysed and the present position be intimated.
- (c) The number of sericultural farms in the State and evaluation report on the performance of these farms with particular reference to cost ratio benefit may furnished, for the period from 1-4-82 to 31-3-86.



## E—LOSS ON SALE OF CEMENT

Audit Para, 5.8./C.A.G.1977-78 (Civil)

1.5.1. The Directorate of Sericulture & Weaving procured about 2,816 bags of cement as a cost of Rs.0.58 lakh during 1975-76 for certain departmental works. The cement could not be utilised due to transfer of the work to Public Works Department. The entire quantity of cement was disposed of by him by public auction in January 1978 for 0.46 lakh as the efforts made by him for its utilisation through the P. W. D. did not succeed. There was a loss of Rs. 12 lakhs to the department in this transaction.

Further, 976 bags of cement (cost Rs. 0.19 lakh) procured by the Manager, Sericulture Farm, Titabar in 1975-76 for departmental works were lying unutilised. Government stated (December 1978) that 950 bags of cement had been sold in auction for Rs, 0.03 lakh. The remaining 36 bags (value Rs, 0.05 lakh) were lying in stock in totally damaged condition and could not fetch any bid during auction. This was referred by Audit to the Government in August 1978, Government accepted the facts (December 1978).

1.5.2. The Department have stated that during July, 1975, a quantity of 8660 bags of cement were purchased for construction of departmental buildings. After due discussion with the Chief Engineer P. W. D. and the Director of Sericulture and weaving on 23-12-1975, Government entrusted some building work to P. W. D. Accordingly administrative approval was accorded by the Secretary. Sericulture and weaving with permission to purchase the cement by the Director of Sericulture and Weaving for construction of building works.

The Additional Chief Engineer had regretted to lift the cement and in response to this we stated to the Additional Chief Engineer that the entire quota was purchased for construction of buildings entrusted to him. Hence the same is to be taken by him for its proper utilisation. At the sametime we requested the Superintendent of Sericulture, Jorhat and Principal Sericulture Training Institute Titabar to contact Mahkuma Parishad and Agricultural



University: Jorhat, and Superintendent of Sericulture, Haflong to contact District Council, Haflong, if they are interested with the Cement at our stock. But no demand came from any quarter. The Chief Engineer in response to our request directed the Executive Engineer, Haflong to lift 3,546 bags and to the E. E. Jorhat to lift 2,816 bags of Cement. The matter was then taken up by the Secretary, Sericulture and Weaving Department with the Secretary, P. W. D. for lifting the entire quota. But there was no action from the Department of P. W. D. The P. W. D. was not included to lift the quota. In our report we have given the details about the entire matter. Hence the question of disposal of Cement came up. The loss on sale of Cement was due to the non-lifting of Cement.

1.5.3. From records it appears that the Department procured 8660 bags of cement in July, 1975 for construction of departmental Buildings of 8660 bags, it is seen that in two lots a total of 3792 bags were disposed of as there were not utilised. The first lot comprising 2316 bags purchased at the cost of Rs. 58,000.00 sold in January, 1978 for Rs. 46,000.00 resulting loss of Rs. 12,000.00. The second lot purchased at cost of Rs. 19,000.00 was sold in December 1971 at Rs. 3,000.00 only and with another totally damaged 26 bags valued at Rs. 5,000/- only resulted total loss of Rs. 21,000.00. Audit raised objection about loss only. The Sericulture Department in reply placed of responsibility of non-utilisation in time on Public Works Department. The question naturally crops up whether these quantity of cement was all necessary for the purpose of the construction. Nowhere it is found that because this non-utilisation some items of construction could not be done. The department has to clarify its position about the construction projection made in relation to the procurement of 8660 bags of cement. The circumstances of cement bags becoming surplus necessitating disposal needs to be explained. It is not clear from the report furnished to the Committee (vide Annexure-I) whether the original estimates of the works entrusted to P. W. D. were exclusive of the cost of cement and other materials and if so; for what purpose, such a huge bulk of cement was procured. On the contrary, reasons for refusal of the P. W. D. to take-over the cement need to be clarified by the P. W. Department.



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.5.4. The Committee could not understand why did the Manager, Sericulture Firm, Titabor procured 976 bags of cement which could not be utilised within next two years.

1.5.5. The Committee further likes to know the detailed particulars of the buildings entrusted to P. W. D. for construction on their behalf with original estimated cost material component of the Schemes including cement, subsequent revision thereof if any and the time taken for completion of construction and why despite having a Engineering wing in the Directorate, the works could not be carried-out Departmentally and how the services of the Engineers and other technical personnels were utilised during the period may also be made known within a period of three months from its presentation in the House.



## F-DELAY IN UTILIZATION/NON-UTILIZATION OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE.

(Audit Para 3.15/C.A G, - 1979-80 (civil))

1.6.1. The audit has pointed-out two cases of delay in utilization of Central Assistance. The first case relates to the year 1977-78 in which the Govt. in the Sericulture & Weaving Department could not take appropriate action for utilization of the Central Assistance of Rs. 6.64 lakhs which lead to delay and refund of a portion thereof. In the other case, an amount of Rs. 1.54 lakhs has involved which fallen in the same line with the former. The details of the cases as reported audit are :

(a) At the close of the financial year 1977-78, the Director of Sericulture and Weaving draw Rs 6.64 lakhs being the whole of the budget provision for the year under the tribal sub-plan for the year (assisted by the union Government) for Sericulture and Weaving. No programme for utilisation of the money had been drawn up in April 1978, the Director sent the money (by Bank draft) to the Assistant Director of Sericulture for distributing the amount to the Superintendents of Sericulture in 8 Districts. In August 1978, the Assistant Director was asked not to encash the Bank draft pending receipt of further instructions but meanwhile the draft had already been encashed. Of the amount, as per instructions issued in April 1979, Rs. 3.29 lakhs were paid to the Assam Plains Tribals Development Corporation Limited as grant. Information regarding utilization of the amount by the Corporation is awaited (January 1981). Rupees 1.67 lakhs were spent by the Superintendents of Sericulture up to October 1979 on wages, office contingencies and minor works such as wire fencing, ring well, chowkidars shed etc. Of the balance Rs. 1.88 lakhs it was reported by the Assistant Director of Sericulture in



January 1981 that Rs. 0.56 lakh were lying unspent with the Superintendents of Sericulture in December 1980. Information regarding its utilisation or refund is also awaited. The matter was referred by audit to the Government in November 1980; reply is awaited (February 1981)

(b) Rupees 1.54 lakhs were drawn by the Director of Sericulture and Weaving in March 1978 and remitted in May 1978 to the Superintendent of Sericulture, North Lakhimpur for providing financial assistance to the tribal for setting up Sericulture industries (Rs. 0.91 lakh, through the Assam Plains Tribal Development Corporation), construction of Bordeuri Mulberry Farm (Rs. 0.49 lakh) and wages to local tribal rearers undergoing training in sericulture (Rs. 0.14 lakh). However, the amounts of Rs. 0.91 lakh and Rs. 0.49 lakh remained in a bank as deposit-at-call till June 1979 in the name of the Superintendent of Sericulture. The Director of Sericulture and Weaving stated in January 1981 that the location of the proposed farm had to be shifted from Bordeuri to Kholaguri due to public objection and that details of the expenditure incurred on the farm were not available in the Directorate.

The matter was referred by audit to the Government in September 1980; reply is awaited (February 1981).

1.6.2. The Department in their written replies clarified that the information regarding utilisation of the amount of Rs. 3.29 lakhs will be furnished by the Assam plains Tribes Development Corporation. The un-utilised amount of Rs. 0.56 lakh lying with the Superintendent of Sericulture, Dibrugarh was already refunded to the Treasury by the Asstt. Director of Sericulture, Guwahati. (b) the amount of Rs. 0.91 lakh which remained in call Deposit at Bank was paid to the Assam plains Tribal Development Corporation in September 1980 & the proposed Sericulture Farm could not be established during 1977-78 by this Department. Out of the balance amount of Rs. 0.49 lakh a sum of Rs. 9.34 lakhs meant for Minor works was refunded to the Treasury after utilising the balance amount of Rs. 0.15 lakh on wages to local Tribal Rearers undergoing training in Sericulture & office contingencies during 1979-80 by the Superintendent of Sericulture, concerned.



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.6.3. The unspent balance in the first case is Rs. 0.56 lakh (8.43%) and in the second case it is Rs. 0.34 lakh (22.05%). Whatever money the Department utilised, it could be spent with inordinate delay. The utilization certificates in respect of the amount (Rs. 3.29 lakhs) from out of the Assistance of Rs. 6.64 lakhs paid to the Assam Plains Tribal Development Corporation Ltd. has not been received by audit till February, 1991. In all probability, the Department might had a definite programme under Tribal Sub-plan, in so far as the amount are concerned, for which they got the sanction from Government of India.

1.6.4. The Committee feels that for proper appraisal of the matter under scrutiny, the proceedings of the meeting would be appropriate and accordingly quoted:

CHAIRMAN— You see, after about 8 years or so this objection of audit has yet to be closed and it indicated that there is no proper accounting of the expenditures in this Department. How will the Government function then? We feel that there is some difficulty in the maintenance of Deptt. Accounts as well as internal audit so far as receipts and expenditure are concern. As it has been come out in your reply against 3.15 (a), certification of utilisation is yet to be procured from the Assam Plains Tribes Development Corporation for a sum of Rs. 3.29 lakh advanced by the Deptt.. I think the Deptt. should take particular care to avoid this type of things and suggest how this can be avoided.

About 3.15(b), we want to know what happened ultimately to this sum of Rs. 91 thousand. Whether the money is still lying with the Corporation or it has been utilised?

SECRETARY S/W.— They have kept in the fixed deposit and are earning interest thereon.

CHAIRMAN.— This is a very sorry state of affairs.



Commissioner & Secy. — S. & W. may look into it and see that this type of things may not occur in future.

COMMISSIONER & SECY. S. & W.,— We shall look into it sir.

Dr. K. KALITA.—What was the specific scheme for which the central assistance was provided ?

COMMISSIONER & SECY. S.&W.— There are different schemes in which such assistance in the form of subsidies is given by the Central Govt.

DIRECTOR, S. & W.—In this scheme Central assistance was provided to develop this Eri, Muga and Mulbarry farming, and if you want to know all this thing we can furnish the same.

COMMISSIONER & SECY. S. & W.—We will furnish it to the Committee.

SHEIKH ABDUL HAMID.—“The unutilised amount of Rs. 0.56 lakhs lying with Supdt. of Sericulture, Dibrugarh was already refunded to the Treasury” you mean to say that the amount has been given back to the Department.

COMMISSIONER S. & W.—It was returned to the Government by the treasury deposit.

CHAIRMAN.—You mean it was surrendered ?

COMMISSIONER S.W.—Yes it was surrendered. We have said, it was refunded.

Dr. K. KALITA.—I draw your attention to the 2nd part of the CAG's Report 1979-80 at page 57, and your written reply in the last para at p. 19. It seems a sum of Rs. 1.67 lakhs had been spent by the Supdt. of Sericulture upto 1979. I want to know for which particular centre this amount had been spent for these minor works like ringwell chowkidar's shed etc ? Whether this expenditure pertained to the purpose for which the Central Government provided this assistance ?

DIRECTOR S. & W.—Presumably it is so that should be spent for that purpose, and it cannot be otherwise.



SEIKH ABDUL HAMID.—Regarding Kolaiguri Farm whether this Farm was established and has been functioning? This has reference to para 3.15(d) of the C.A.G's Report 1979-80.

DIRECTOR S. & W.—I shall have to examine the record and say about it: Most probably we have got this building. I shall have to examine in the office and I shall report to the P.A.C.

CHAIRMAN.—All relevant records should may be made available to the members of the P.A.C. Our request to you that in future you should prepare the case more meticulously and all papers should be made readily available for the satisfaction of the P.A.C.

DIRECTOR S. & W.—Sir, we have not got the C.A.G's Report itself. We have been given a copy of the cycles-tiled page. Any way we shall examine it and report to you.

CHAIRMAN.—If you want, you could have got it from the Assembly Sectt. or you could make a request to the A.G. (Audit) for furnishing a copy to you. Mr. Barua (Commissioner & Secy. S.W.) if you exercise a little more to dispose of the matter in totality.

1.6.5.—The Committee is constrained to note that due to laxity of some officials, the amounts of Central Assistance could not either be promptly utilised or had to be refunded. Now the Committee would like to have a comprehensive Report on this issues involved and the reasons for which a part of the amount was refunded.



## G-IDLE OUTLAY

Audit para 5.7/G. A. G.-1981-82 ( Civil )

1.7.1. The audit has pointed out that the Government sanctioned Rs. 4.70 lakhs on 28th March, 1981 for installation of reeling machines at three Sericultural farms at Khanapara, Kokrajhar and Gaurisagar with the object of helping the private rearers to get their cocoons reeled for production of uniform and standard quality of silk yarns. After inviting tenders, the Director of Sericulture and weaving placed ( March 1981 ) an order with a Bangalore based firm for supply and installation of five reeling machines for Rs. 5.22 lakhs. Obtaining a proforma bill from the firm, the sanctioned amount of Rs. 4.70 lakhs was drawn by the Directorate on 31st March 1981 and retained in the form of Bank draft in favour of the firm. The machines were received at the farms between September 1981 and April 1982. The firm was paid Rs. 5.09 lakhs between December 1981 and April 1982 excluding an amount of Rs. 0.18 lakh to be paid on installation of the machines, although the sanction was only for Rs. 4.70 lakh. The building in which these machines are to be installed has not yet been completed and therefore no action has been taken to install these reeling machines which are lying idle ( November 1982 ). The delay installation of the machines has not only deprived the private rearers of the intended benefits but has also resulted in blocking of funds. The Director, Sericulture and Weaving, intimated ( November 1982 ) that the delay in installation was due to non-completion of the related buildings.

1-7-2. The Department in their written replies stated that the project for establishment of Reeling and twisting plants was sanctioned by the Government vide their letter No. SWG. 297/78/51, dated 26th July 1980, SWG. 29/78/Pt-I /14 dated 29th August 1980 and SWG. 29/81/1 dated 26th March 1981.



Orders for procurement of the following machines were placed with a Bangalore based firm as approved by the Departmental purchase Board.

1. Reeling machine (Hanking Machine) — 4 Nos, used at Khanapara & Ratanpur farm.

2. Domestic Silk Reeling basin double dack 10 ends with modern cocoons dryer . . . . . 1 No. meant for Kokrajhar,

3. High speed twisting machine |  
3 dack type, 120 spindles | meant for Gourisagar.  
capacity, winding machine  
doubling machine, Hanking  
machine etc. complete. |

Twisting machine—4 Nos.

Hanking machine—2 Nos.

Doubling machine—1 No.

Winding machine—2 Nos.

The total cost of the above noted machineries was Rs. 4704, 463.20 and the amount was drawn in March 1981. The project contain two parts viz. buildings component and machineries. On receipt of Government Sanction to the project action was initiated similtaneously for construction of building and procurement of machines. Although the reeling machines, twisting plants etc. were procurred earlier these could not be installed due to non completion of the buildings in time. The construction of building works delayed due to scarcity of Cement in the market / non availability of Cement. Secondly the Assam State Electricity Board failed to construct L. T. C. line although the internal electrification of the building in question was completed. The Assam State Electricity Bcard had been requested many a times approached in different level on may occasion without any faithful result. This was also pointed out in the last state level steering committee meeting held at Janata Bhaban. However, the Reeling machine & twisting plants etc. are functioning with effect from the date as noted against each.

1. Reeling unit at Kokrajhar—January, 1984.

2. Twisting plant, Gaurisagar—June, 1984.



3. Re-Reeling ( Hanking ) machines—Used at Khanapara and Ratanpur Muga Farms  
( Date : July, 1989 )

The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 5.09 lakhs. The building at Gaurisagar was completed on 5th May 1983 with electrification on 1st August 1983 and service connection during May 84 similarly the Kokrajhar project was completed on 1981-82 with electrification service connection on 21st October 1982 and during November, 1983 respectively.

### OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.7.3. In respect of this para, the Department have stated interalia that the completion of the project was delayed due to scarcity of cement in the market. In another case (audit para 5.8 C.A.G.1977-78 was in P.A.C, paras 1.4.1. to 1.4.4, of this Report) the Department stated that they purchased a stock of cement but the stock could not be utilised. This is an instance of cases how the Department sometimes take unconcealable position in their stand. Sometimes Department is seen not in a position to release their stock but at times found short of materials. It is of some interest to know whether the Department has any material programme in relation to its projects constructions action.

1.7.4. The Committee is unhappy to note that the Department made an outlay of Rs. 4.70 lakhs which remain idle for about four years by not constructing the suitable place to install the machines.

1.7.5. Now coming to the point of achievement of the objectives of having the reeling machines for helping the private Rearers etc. the Committee would like to have a detail report thereof.



Re-killing (Hankings) machines—Used at Khanapara and Katarapur Mills  
(Date: July, 1989)

The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 5.09 lakhs. The building at Guwahati on 25th May 1983 with electricity on 1st August 1983 and service connection during May 84 similarly the Kokrajhar project was completed on 1981-82 with electricity service connection on 1st August 1982.

## HANDLOOM & TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

Development of handloom industry Audit para

3.30/CAG-1976-77 (C)

I—General  
2.1.1. Handloom industry is one of the oldest cottage industry in the State. The number of looms in the State was estimated to be about 6.94 lakhs as on 31st December 1975, providing full or part-time employment to nearly eight lakhs of people. The details of expenditure under non-plan and plan heads, as per Finance Accounts, Government of Assam are as under during the period under this Report :

Year	Minor head	Non-plan	Plan	Total
1974—75	Handloom Industries	27,79,486	2,19,189	29,98,675
	Handicraft	1,18,930	2,37,298	3,56,226
	Khadi	15,67,600	13,46,800	29,14,400
1975—76	Handloom Industries	29,44,594	10,07,417	39,52,011
	Handicraft	1,57,124	2,80,365	4,37,489
	Khadi	15,34,000	21,00,000	36,34,000
1976—77	Handloom Industries	34,72,004	13,58,295	48,30,299
	Handicrafts	1,63,481	2,02,395	3,65,876
	Khadi	17,08,360	33,50,988	50,59,348
1977—78	Handloom Industries	46,90,989	20,78,502	67,69,491



	Handicraft	2,50,144	1,05,151	3,55,295
	Khadi	17,70,386	22,24,922	39,95,308
1978-79	Handloom Industries	39,53,167	16,09,022	55,62,189
	Handicraft	1,34,575	7,45,160	9,29,735
	Khadi	17,90,022	36,18,000	54,08,022
1979-80	Handloom Industries	45,15,593	9,17,807	54,69,400
	Handicraft	2,09,442	3,16,777	5,26,219
	Khadi	65,000	81,55,917	82,20,917
1980-81	Handloom Industries	68,27,531	25,91,570	94,19,101
	Handicraft	2,70,594	7,25,603	9,96,197
	Khadi	14,78,300	53,74,704	68,53,004
1981-82	Handloom Industries	62,78,986	54,26,173	1,17,05,159
	Handicraft	3,53,500	12,31,265	15,84,765
	Khadi	27,35,000	45,51,930	72,86,930

2.1.2. The schemes undertaken by the Government for the development of the handloom industry in the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) which were also continued after the Fourth Plan were as under :

- (i) Production of handloom fabrics,
- (ii) Training in handloom weaving,
- (iii) Handloom research and design, and
- (iv) Strengthening the technical and supervisory staff.

The objectives of the schemes were (i) to provide suitable assistance and facilities to make weaving remunerative (ii) to increase production of quality handloom cloth, (iii) to ensure full employment to those already in the industry and (iv) to create additional self employment opportunities. The schemes were administered by the Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving. The scheme-wise allocation of funds



and the expenditure incurred thereon during 1969-70 to 1976-77 were as under as pointed out in audit :

Schemes	Budget Provision	Actual expenditure (in lakhs of rupees)
1. Production of handloom fabrics.	40.02	28.79
2. Training in handloom weaving	21 08	9.67
3. Handloom research and design.	6.37	5 19
4. Strengthening the technical and supervisory staff.	4.85	0.48
	73.02	44.13

3.1.3. The Department in their written replies have clarified that the present position of no. of looms in the State is about 13.98 lakhs providing full or part employment to nearly 19 lakhs of weavers as per Census of Handloom carried out in the year 1988 and report submitted to Government of India

2.1.4. The schemes of production of handloom fabric had two sub- schemes viz, (i) establishment of handloom production centres, and (ii) establishment of weavers extension service units. The no. of looms in the State is about 13.98 lakhs which are providing full or parttime employment to nearly 19 lakhs weavers after achieving all the objectives. The proceedings of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee would be relevant here and accordingly quoted.

Prof. Sheikh Abdul Hamid—: In the report it is stated that the no. of looms in the State is about 13.98 lakhs, which are providing full or part time employment to nearly 19 lakhs of weavers. Have you submitted this report to Government of India.

Director, Handloom:—Yes, Sir, we have submitted the report to the Government of India.

Dr. K. Kalita. This is encouraging. whether the Government of India is satisfied ?



Director, Handloom:— Government of India is satisfied. Prof. Sheikh Abdul Hamid:— I think our State is far advanced in this respect than many other States?

Director, Handloom:— Yes Sir

Dr. K. Kalita:— What is your opinion about the new schemes which are being taken up or are already taken up. How far the progress has been made to increase the production? Whether all these objectives have been achieved?

Director, Handloom:— Government have made certain schemes and we are trying to implement them. Of course there are some constraints. In order to raise the production all possible steps have been taken with the limited resources at our disposal. We are also trying to give the economic benefit to the weavers by supplementing their wages. By and large many weavers are gradually changing their old methods. So long weavers were unfamiliar with the improved methods of production in the Handloom Production Centre. Over the years, they were going to be experienced and the slow process of production also showed marked improvement. Weavers are now acquainted with the machineries of Handloom and thereby their wages are also well supplemented. In certain cases we have noticed their failures also. That is due to the fact that it is not yet motivated on commercial lines. Therefore, we have taken adequate step to motivate them on commercial lines. The position is gradually improving and with this trend of development the position will further improve.

Dr. K. Kalita :— Are you satisfied with the present trend of achievement?

Commissioner, Handloom :— The Department is to strive hard, if we are to achieve the tangible result. The question of satisfaction doesnot arise.

Chairman :— In short, whether a small factory unit set up by the State Government can develop a small industry in the village with this type of financial expenditure?

Director, Handloom :— Our handloom production has to be economical and at the same time made attractive and with that end in view we want to set up a small fac-



tory in an area because factory can supply common facilities like technical direction, then standardisation of cloth etc. which is the dully of the Department, but if they spread over from village to village, it becomes difficult to provide technical supervision moving from house to house and therefore we have established and H. P. C.

**Chairman** :—Now-a-days, cloth pieces like Sari, Dhoti or Gamocha available in the market at a cheaper price, and now-a-days price of it is the main consideration, and I feel if your products cannot compete with the items available in the market at cheaper price, your exercise will end in futulity. In Assam, Manipur and in tribal areas, hand-weaving was a tradition and it so long was not done on cost basis. They have this unique distinction that it was not based on cost of production. Here we are now introducing small factory. Would it be really in a position to compete with the prices of the variety of cloth available in the market; say for instance with the price of Janata Sari, Dhoti or Gamocha, who would want to buy your handloom products when the cost 3-4 rupees more?

**Secretary H. & T.** :—In any case, Sir, Janata Sari or Dhoti are produced with Government subsidy.

**Director, H. & T.** :—For your information sir, Government of India has stopped production of this sort of cheap variety of controlled cloth. In a way, Government of India is encouraging the handloom sector by stopping this.

**Secretary, H. & T.** :—Our production centres are not producing Janata type of cloth. They are producing valued quality.

**Chairman** :—My information is that major share is takes over by outside producers. These are serious things which are going to destroy handloom production of gamocha and dhoti.

#### OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2.I.5. The Committee is happy to note that our State is far advanced with about 13.98 lakhs of looms providing



full or part-time employment to nearly 19 lakh of weavers.

The Committee would however like to know the achievement both physical and fiscal on Handloom, Handicrafts and khadi during the 5th & 6th plan periods with a brief write-up of the plan schemes implemented by the Department.

2.1.6. It appears from the expenditure figures under para 2.1.1. that both plan & non-plan expenditure during the period under Report increased manifold. The Committee, would, therefore, like to know whether the developmental activities of the Department have also increased in conformity with the increase of expenditure. The Department may make an annalitical study and intimate the report to the Committee within a period of three months from the date of presentation of the Report before the House.

## II—HANDLOOM PRODUCTION CENTRES.

2.2.1. As pointed out in audit, two handloom production centres were established, one each at Nalbari (March 1973) and Jorhat (July 1973), for production of quality cloth under the supervision and guidance of the technical staff of department and for training of weavers in the working of improved looms and in latest techniques and designs, as also to enable the private weavers to earn wages from Rs. 100 to Rs. 140 per month. The raw material (Yarn, etc.) was to be supplied by the production centre and the weavers working in the centre were to be paid wages as per their output. The target of production of quality handloom cloth was fixed at 18,000 metres per centre per annum.

The Superintendent of Weaving, Nalbari Production Centre intimated (August 1975) to the Director of Sericulture and Weaving that the Nalbari Centre started (March 1973) with 30 looms out of which 5 were lying idle since April 1975 due to collapse of a shed of the centre by storm.

The Superintendent of Weaving, Jorhat Production Centre stated during audit that in the Jorhat Centre there were 24 looms out of which 4 were lying idle since ince



ption (July 1973) as these were heavy and could not be handled by the women weavers.

2.2.2. The cost of establishment and production of cloth in these two centres during the period from 1973-74 to 1976-77 as furnished by the Centre Superintendents in their quarterly reports were as under :

	Nalbari Centre	Jorhat Centre
(a) Cost of establishment	Rs. 1,15,150	Rs. 1,37,370
(b) Cloth produced (in mtr.)	12,911	7,677
(c) Value of cloth	Rs. 81,198	Rs. 77,254

The Department had prescribed that the value of cloth produced in a production centre should be determined on the basis of the cost of yarn consumed plus wages 5 p. c. overheads. In Nalbari Centre, the value of cloth produced during 1973-74 to 1976-77 as per stock register was Rs. 0.81 lakh while as per yarn consumed and wages paid, it should have been Rs. 1.02 lakhs.

2.2.3. The important points on which the schemes introduced in two centres could not achieve the target are:—

(i) As compared to the target of 18,000 metres per centre per annum, the actual production of handloom cloth in the Nalbari Centre during 1973-74 to 1976-77 varied from 10.1 per cent (1973-74) to 28.4 per cent (1976-77) and in the Jorhat Centre from 7.4 per cent (1973-74) to 14.9 per cent (1976-77). The reasons for low production had not been analysed by the department (December 1977).

ii) The cost of establishment of these centres as compared to the value of cloth produced was high. On an average, the annual cost of establishment in the Nalbari and Jorhat Centres during 1973-74 to 1976-77 was Rs. 0.29 lakh and Rs. 0.34 lakh respectively while the average value of cloth produced was only Rs. 0.20 lakh and Rs. 0.19 lakh respectively.



iii) The scheme envisaged that these centres would help the weavers to earn wages between Rs. 100 and Rs. 140 per month by working on the looms in these centres. But, on an average, monthly wages earned per weaver in the Nalbari Centre varied from Rs. 8.32 to Rs. 19.51 while in the Jorhat Centre, these varied from Rs. 15.36 to Rs. 28.56.

iv) Although the scheme envisaged use of improved looms, the looms in use in both the centres were of the ordinary fly-shuttle type except two jacquard looms used in the Nalbari Centre.

2.2.4. The Department in their written memorandum have clarified the points as under :

**1) Difference of the value of yarn and wages and value of cloth in H.P.C., Nalbari.**

The reasons for the difference between the value of yarn consumed plus the wages paid and the value of the cloth produce have since been invested. It has been observed that in handloom weaving it requires considerable time to convert the yarn issued for a particular warp of weft into fabrics. The production is a time consuming process and it requires some time to get back the whole lot of production from the yarn issued for such production. Consequently the yarn shown issued during the first end of a particular year may be fully converted in to finished product in the first part of next year the time period depending on the length of the warp and the nature of the design sought to be produced. Hence, sometime the value of cloth produced during a specific year may work out to be less than the yarn issued for production plus wages as has happened in this particular case. The detail analysis for the year 1984-85 to 1987-88 of H.P.C., Nalbari shown below in clarify entire position.

**The detail analysis of yarn issued and cloth produced during the year in respect of H.P.C., Nalbari.**

Year	Yarn issued (K G)	with value (Rs.)	Cloth produce and (Mtr.)	value (Rs.)
1984-85	278.930	Rs. 29,706.63	3304.66	Rs. 46,022.00
1985-86	203.830	Rs. 25,924.32	2325.87	Rs. 45,168.00



1986-87	244.700	Rs 68,231.77	2007.90	Rs. 1,00,340.00
1987-88	262.230	Rs. 86,901.32	3604.45	Rs. 1,44,178.00

**ii) The reason for low production in H.P.C., Nalbari and H.P.C., Jorhat.**

The reasons for low production are summed up as under :

1. Though there were 30 and 24 looms at Nalbari and Jorhat respectively in the first year of establishment of the centres, initially very few number of looms at both the centres could be placed in the process of production due mainly to want of sufficient accommodation.

2. The weavers being female mostly belonging to the farmers families, could not devote the whole time in production. They did not take up the work on commercial basis. It was therefore extremely difficult to maintain a regular schedule of production.

3. The weavers engaged from time to time remain unfamiliar with the improved methods of production in the Handloom Production Centres. It therefore took sufficient time for them to acquire the skill while production continued. Over the years they were gaining experience and the slow process of production also showed improvement.

**iii) Cost of establishment being higher than the cost of production.**

Although the scheme is basically designed to have a commercial basis the underlying objective is promotion of handloom activities and prototype demonstration technology of handloom production under the direct supervision and control of this Department. Under such circumstances, where optimum production based on strictly economic costing cannot be ensured, the establishment cost will naturally be higher than the cost of produced materials more particularly during the formative years. The reasons for low production has been already explained in connection with paragraph (4) (a) (i)

A boost is sought to be given changing the pattern of production from cotton to Silk & Polyester and a detail



analysis for the year 1987-88 of Handloom Production Centre, Nalbari shown below, which will clarify the entire position.

Name of HPC	No. of looms	Cost of establishment. (in Rs.)	Production of cloth (in metre)	Value of cloth (in Rupees)
1. H.P.C., Nalbari	32	1,26,919.00	3604	1,44,178.00
2. H.P.C., Jorhat	26	1,38,604.00	2118	1,44,785.00

#### iv) Lower earning of wages by the weavers.

The weavers engaged mostly being female and most of them coming from farmer's families could not devote fully in the process of production. This has resulted in their earning low wages in these years. The wage was low because of low production and the reason thereof has already been explained in para 4 (a)(i). The situation has shown improvement since change of pattern of production.

#### v) Non-use of improved looms.

The fly-shuttle loom itself is an improved loom which includes such other attachments as Draw-Boy, Jacquard, Takeup Motion mechanism etc.

5.3.2. The Audit conducted test check of the following 11 units (out of 35 units) and pointed out the average annual cost of establishment and the production during 1973-74 to 1976-77.

Sl. No.	Unit Name	Average Annual Production (in metres)	Average Annual Value of annual production (in Rupees)
1.	Ajodhya	10,086	7,087
2.	Barpeta	9,488	14,140



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.2.5 Going to the replies furnished by the Government to the Committee it is seen that the two handloom production centres at Nalbari and Jorhat could not achieve the target as envisaged. The period subsequent to the period under Report, though shown some improvement in turn-over, still remained uneconomic.

2.2.6. The Committee, therefore, feels that there should be proper cost analysis of the transaction made from 1984-85 to 1987-88 as cited by the Department. The Committee would also like to know the wage structure during the period. The report, as sought for, may be furnished within a period of three months from the date of presentation of this Report.

## III - Weavers Extension Service Units

2.3.1. The Scheme for establishment of weavers extension service units was first taken-up in 1961-62. The number of such units in the State was 32 in September, 1977 and these were located in areas having large concentration of weavers. These units were to supply yarn to the private weavers for production of cloth of given specification, give technical guidance, make payment of wage on the basis of their out-put and also arrange for marketing of the cloth produced.

2.3.2. The Audit conducted test check of the following 11 units (out of 32 units) and pointed out the average annual cost of establishment and the production during 1973-74 to 1976-77 :

Name of units	Average Annual cost of Estt	Average Annual production	Value of average annual Production
	(in Rupees)	(in metres)	(in Rupees)
1. Agomoni	10,086	2,411	7,087
2. Barpujia	9,488	5,807	14,140



3	Bilashipara	12,383	2,383	9,884
4.	Bokakhat	14,323	2,283	5,789
5.	Dergaon	9,933	1,919	5,178
6.	Goalpara	11,791	2,773	7,288
7	Kokrajhar	11,625	2,915	12,841
8.	Nalbari	12,260	5,636	20,298
9.	Nagaon	12,524	8,477	24,623
10	Patiagaon	10,256	3,659	7,635
11.	Sibsagar	10,300	3,291	9,175

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Other points as observed in audit are :—

(i) The target of production for each unit was 12,000 metres per year, only one unit (Nowgaon) out of 11 units could achieve more than 50% of the target while achievement of other 10 units varied from 16% to 48% of the target.

(ii) The average cost of establishment in 7 units (Agomoni, Bilasipara, Bokakhat, Dergaon, Goalpara, Patia-gaon and Sibsagar) was more than the value of cloth pro-duce during 1973-74 to 1976-77.

(iii) Though the objective was to pay remunerative wages to the weavers, the actual wages paid in 4 units (test checked in audit) 69 per cent of the weavers earned wages upto Rs. 25.00 per annum, 20 per cent earned between Rs. 26.00 and Rs. 50.00 per annum, 7.4 p. c. between Rs. 51.00 and Rs. 100.00 per annum and only 3.6 p. c. above Rs. 100.00 Per annum

2.3.3. The Department vide their written memorandum have stated as under :

(i) **Low production and higher establishment cost than the cost of production.**



This is mainly a Social Service Scheme. The underlying objective of the scheme is to augment the income of the weavers families by extending various service facilities and thereby encouraging them to take weaving as subsidiary occupation. At this stage, the beneficiaries under the scheme are mostly female members of agriculture of families who work at their looms only at their leisure hours and consequently the level of production is low compared to the cost of establishment. Endeavour is being made to motivate more and more weavers to take up weaving on whole time occupational basis. The present position regards to costs of establishment and production of cloths of these Units for the year 1987-88 are as follow :-

No. of Unit

86 Nos.

Cost of establishment

Rs. 43,32,158.00

Production of cloth

4,92,283 metres

Value of Cloth

Rs. 3,96,22,640.00

## (ii) Payment of remunerative wages to weavers.

Since the weavers were occasional workers and could not devote to weaving regularly on whole time basis, they could not earn remunerative wages.



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.3.4. The Government took-up handloom development scheme in the 4th plan to make weaving remunerative, to increase production of quality handloom, to create additional employment etc. Now, the Committee would like to know if this project taken up by the Department was ever evaluated.

2.3.5. The disproportionate loss sustained in implementing the scheme is attempted to be defended on the plea that it is a social service scheme. But even in case of a social service scheme the question of cost/benefit has to be considered. The Committee would, therefore, like to know from the Department about the position obtained in 5th and 6th plan with a special reference about the pay structures involved in payment of remunerative wages to weavers. The report may be made available within a period of three months from the date of its presentation.

## IV—WEAVING TRAINING CLASSES

2.4.1. Weaving training classes provided one year training course in improved and up-to-date method of handloom weaving with emphasis on the use of improved looms to ensure that the trainees take-up this profession gainfully. This scheme was started in 1950. Training classes were being organised at 16 places. Each training class had 15 trainees who were to be paid a monthly stipend of Rs.40/-. The trainees were also to be given looms/accessories on grant on successful completion of the training.

2.4.2. The Audit examined the accounts/records of a Weaving training classes viz, Barama, Ganakkuchi, Goalpara Hajo, Masalpur, Roha, Ramphalbil and Sibsagar. Audit made the following observations.

(i) The scheme provided for distribution of looms/accessories, etc., as grants to the trainees who completed train-



ing successfully. According to the records of the Directorate distribution of looms/accessories to the trainees who passed out in February 1971 (205 trainees) and February 1972 (165 trainees) was completed during 1974-75 only. The trainees who passed out in February 1973 (354) and in February 1974 (305) had not been supplied looms/accessories (September 1977)

Rupees 1.01 lakhs were drawn by the Director, Sericulture and Weaving in September 1974 (Rs.54,260) and February 1976 (Rs.46,500) for providing looms/accessories to the trainees (985) who had completed training in February, 1973, February, 1974, and February, 1975. As per records of the Directorate, the entire amount remained unutilised due to delay/failure on the part of the suppliers to supply the articles and was being retained in the form of bank drafts (September 1977).

(ii) Each training class was to maintain a register of the successful trainees, who were given looms/accessories as grant, for ascertaining whether these trainees were actually engaged in the industry or not. No such register was maintained in any of the training centres.

(iii) Although one of the objectives was to impart training in the use of improved looms, all the training classes were provided with ordinary fly-shuttle looms.

(iv) Each training class was provided with 8 looms. The standard consumption of yarn per loom per month was fixed at 3 kilograms for imparting practical training but the actual yarn issued to the training classes during the period 1973-74 to 1976-77 was not even half of the standard requirement.

(v) The syllabus of the course included, inter alia, dyeing and printing but these were not being thought. The Evaluation Report of 1972 had recommended that dyeing and printing being prerequisite for better marketability, training therein should be introduced.

#### 2.4.3. The written replies of the Department Reports.

(i) Delayed utilisation and non-utilisation of Grant-in-aid to the Ex-trainees for the year 1973-74 and 1974-75 which were remained in the form of Bank draft have since



been sent to the subordinate officers on 24th May 1975 and 2nd February 1976 for providing the looms and accessories to the successful trainees. The utilisation certificate of the above grants have been collected and sent to Accountant General Assam etc, Shillong vide letter No. HTS.305/87/Pt/145, Dated 5th January 1988. The reasons for delay in distribution of grant-in-aid was due to the time taken in finalisation of the process from conducting of Examination to declare of results. Further some time is taken in getting sanction and in observing other formalities only after which the grants are distributed. Some time more delay occurred due to delay in turning up by the Ex-trainees to receive the grants-in kind.

#### (ii) NON-MAINTANANCE OF REGISTER OF THE SUCCESSFUL TRAINEES IN W.T.C.S.

The Register in question is maintained by the circle Inspector of Handloom and Textiles concerned as there is no scope for field supervision by the Instrutors/Demonstrator of the weaving Training Classes to know the actual position whether the trainees were actually engaged in the Industry or not.

#### (iii) NON-USE OF IMPROVE LOOMS IN W.T.C.s

The Fly-shuttle frame loom itself in the improve type of loom. Presently, the improve type of loom viz. Semi-Automatic loom, draw boy etc. have been introduced in Handloom Training Centres.

#### (iv) LOWER CONSUMPTION OF YARN IN W.T.C.s

The purpose of the training is to impart training both in theoretical as well as practical weaving, to fresh candidates in weaving and so the consumption is likely to be towards the lower side.

#### (V) NON-INTRODUCTION OF DYING AND PRINTING TEACHING IN W. T. Cs.

As the purpose of the training is to impart training in improved method of weaving, only the preliminary idea on dying and printing are also given. The course has, however, been included in the higher training in the Handloom Training Institute established during the year 1987-88



after eliminating the same from the syllabus of the Handloom Training Centres.

## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.4.1. Under the training scheme, the trainees were to be given one year's training course in improved and up-to-date method of handloom weaving with the aim that the trainees after successful completion, can take-up this profession gainfully. Now, in the light of the replies, of the Department the object donot appear to have been served, the Committee, would therefore like to know why the projected purposes could not be served and utilization of the self-employment could not be monitored.



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## V. MISCELLANEOUS POINTS OF INTEREST

## ( Suspected mis-appropriation )

2.5.1. (i) The audit has pointed out that the Superintendent of Weaving, Guwahati did not hand-over Rs. 9127.34 being balance in the Personal Ledger Account of his office while relinquishing charge ( March, 1972 ), the amount remained in his personal custody. The Department detected it in June, 1975. The loss was not reported either to the Accountant General or to the Government as required under the rules. The Director of Sericulture and Weaving stated ( September, 1977 ) that Rs. 2,101.33 had since been recovered from the official concerned.

(ii) The Weaving Inspector Agomoni Extension Service Unit handed over ( March, 1975 ) to his successor only 43.75 metres of cloth valued at Rs. 1,803.61 instead of 165.95 metres of cloth valued at Rs. 8,838.79 as per stock register. This was noticed by the department in March, 1975. No action towards recovery had been taken ( September, 1977 ).

2.5.2. The Department vide their written memorandum stated :

(i) Out of the total recovery of Rs. 9121.34 an account of Rs. 2101.33 was already recovered while the Ex-Supt. of Weaving was in Service, Balance amount of Rs. 7026.01 has subsequently been recovered from his D. C. R. G. as per gratuity payment order No. 10903/D Pan-3/1846, dated 1st July, 1978 issued by Accountant General, Assam, Shillong.

(ii) Out of the difference of cloth value ( Rs. 8238.79, Rs. 1803.61 ) Rs. 6135.18 recoverable from the former W. I., W. E. S. U., Agomoni an amount of Rs. 726.87 was recovered while the defaulter was in service. The balance of Rs. 5708.31 was recovered from the D. C. R. G. as per A. G's Audit endorsement No. PR/F-6 of 1979-80, dated 23rd March 1981.



## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.5.3. The Committee is happy to note that the entire amounts in both the cases have been recovered to make good the loss. In this connection, the Committee observes that the recoveries were made only when the facts of suspected misappropriation of assets created by the lowly paid weavers were reported in test audit. Hence, the Committee feels that the Department should take necessary steps for effective internal audit of the accounts for prevention of such cases in future.

2.5.4. The Committee further recommends that the Government should take drastic action against those who are found guilty of serious dereliction of duties, misconduct, questionable integrity moral turpitude etc. to boost-up morals of those who are dutiful and to eliminate the bad elements.



## VI--SCHEMES FOR INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF HANDLOOM

Audit Para 6.5/C. A. G.-1980-81 (Civil).

2.6.1. The audit has pointed out that on the recommendations of the High-Power Team, appointed by Government of India, the Department introduced in 1976-77 two schemes viz. "intensive development of handlooms" and "an export oriented project for development of handlooms" for providing commercial employment to 10,000 weavers outside the co-operative sector by modernisation of 10,000 looms within four years, and making arrangement for supply of raw materials marketing facilities etc. Rupees 1.85 lakhs and Rs. 39.73 lakhs respectively were earmarked for a period of 5 years for implementation of these schemes. The schemes were being implemented through the Assam Government Marketing Corporation Limited and Project Board, Nalbari and loans amounting to Rs. 83.35 lakhs were advanced to the Corporation during the period from 1976-77 to 1980-81, as under, repayable with interest in 10 equal instalments commencing from the first anniversary of the receipt of amount by the Corporation :

(in lakhs of Rupees)

1976-77	25.75
1977-78	8.31
1978-79	15.25
1979-80	28.44
1980-81	5.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.35</b>

In course of audit (July 1981) of the records of the Department, it was noticed that the Corporation had not repaid any instalment of the loan and interest, nor any action for making recovery had been taken by the department. Further the department had not monitored the progress of implementation of the scheme, and had no records to show the number of weavers who were provided commercial employment, number of looms modernised etc. As per utilisation certificates of the Corporation for the period upto 31st December 1978, (furnished to the depart-



ment in November, 1981) expenditure incurred on the implementation of the schemes amounted to Rs. 21.44 lakhs against receipts of Rs. 35.63 lakhs as loans and grants. There were, however no details about achievement of targets viz., number of looms modernised, etc.

2. 6. 2. The Department have furnished a long report, obtained from the Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd. which is quoted."

The Corporation would like to confirm that it received Rs. 83.35 lakhs as loans for implementing the intensive Handloom Development Project and export Oriental Handloom Project upto the year 1980-81 as pointed out by the audit as per details below :—

(Rupees in lakhs)			
Year	J.H.D.P.	E.O.H.P.	Total loan
1976-77	—	—	—
1977-78	18.25	7.50	25.75
1978-79	19.56	—	19.57
1979-80	6.00	7.50	13.50
1980-81	18.944	—	18.944
	5.60	—	5.60
	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —
	68.354	15.00	83.354

### Non-repayment of loans

As per Govt. sanctioning letters, the loans were to be repaid in 10 (ten) equal instalments starting from the first anniversary date of each loan. The Corporation would like to intimate that it could not repay any instalment of loan to the Govt.

### Reasons for Non-Repayment of loans ;



(a) It was envisaged that repayment would have to be made from out of surplus generated by the above project but the project did not generate surplus. It suffered net losses during the years audit as follows :—

Year	I.H.D.P.	E.O.H.P.	Total
1977-78	4.11 Lakhs	0.16 lakh	4.27 lakhs
1978-79	14.85 "	0.05 "	14.90 "
1979-80	10.12 "	0.76 "	10.88 "
1980-81	5.91 "	1.30 Lakhs	7.21 "
	<u>34.99 "</u>	<u>2.27 "</u>	<u>37.26 "</u>

The net loss as above when adjusted against the Grants-in-aid received during the period would stand as follows :—

	I.H.D.P.	E.O.H.P.	Total
Grants-in-aid			
Received during the period from 1976-77 to 1980-81	17.82 lakhs	5.00 lakhs	22.82 lakhs
Less, Net losses during the period	34.99 lakhs	2.27 lakhs	37.26 lakhs
	(- )17.17 lakhs	(+ )2.73 lakhs	(- )14.44 lakhs

It shows that not only the grants-in-aid have been exhausted but also a portion of the loan had been eroded.

(b) The I.H.D.P. for production of Cotton goods did not generate any surplus due to less and less production and its high establishment cost. The following problems further aggravated the position :—

i) The Weavers selected were not accustomed in weaving commercially. Required fabrics and woman weaver were found to be part-time weavers as against the All-India pattern.

ii) The weavers had to be trained during the initial years and the fabrics women during this period were not



upto marketable standard and were full of weaving defects.

iii) As the fund outlay for establishment of a Dye-cum-Printing House was considered low, the Corporation could not setup Dye-cum-Printing House as envisaged in the Intensive Hand Dev. Project scheme resulting in lack of post-loom processing facilities and consequent poor finish.

iv) The accumulated stock of finished products had to be cleared by allowing heavy discount in addition to Govt. Rebate still then, the problem of accumulation of fabrics is very much there as regards I.H.D.P. products.

(c) Yarns had to be obtained from outside the State which did not come regularly. There had been occasional dislocation in production works due to non-receipt of yarns in time.

(d) The Corporation had to run the projects with projects funds alone. Bank finance was not obtained because the corporation found the handloom products, by and large, to be slow moving and less profit yield to afford bank finance at high rate of interest. Hence the benefits of the economic scale of operation envisaged in the scheme could not be achieved.

(e) As regards bank loans to weavers, it may be said that the State Bank of India, Nalbari and the U.Co. Bank, Tihu could sanction term loans only to 1873 weavers against 5631 looms modernised at I.H.D.P.

(f) In case of E.O.H.P. the weavers were found to be unwilling to take Bank loans. The Corporation also did not go for Bank loans as there was no firm export orders. The articles produced were disposed of only in the internal market.

(g) While implementing the I.H.D.P. project, the Corpn. found that the Project/Scheme was not formulated strictly on the production efficiency of women weavers and as such it did not operate as a strictly Commercial proposition. The I.H.D.P. remains at the development and promotional stage,

(h) The I.H.D.P. is still continuing till now. The



prolongation of the Project had resulted in heavy expenditure which far exceeded the grants-in-aid sanctioned for such expenditure and had compelled the Corporation to meet the fixed expenditure of the Project from out of loans sanctioned and received. The E.O.H.P. had been closed down after six years of running from 11th March, 1983 but the production activities are being continued with Corporation own fund.

### Details of Expenditure

(a) Expenditure on I. H. D. P. for the period from 1/2/77 to 31/3/81 are shown below :—

(Rupees in lakhs)					
Components	(a) From 1/2/77 to 31/3/78	(b) From 1/2/77 to 31/12/78	(c) From 1/2/77 to 31/3/79	(d) From 1/2/77 to 31/3/80	(e) From 1/2/77 to 31/3/81
1. Land	..	..	..	..	..
2. Building	..	..	..	..	..
(a) Weaving shed at Solamara					
(b) House Rent	0.18	0.25	0.42	0.57	0.99
3. Modernisation of looms	5.27	12.61	17.45	22.79	23.32
4. Project Administration					
(a) Vehicle	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51
(b) Furniture	0.41	0.42	0.56	0.67	0.73
(c) Pay, T. A., wages etc.	1.52	4.20	5.13	8.91	13.30



# 5. Raw Materials, wages etc.

(a) Raw Materials	7.56	8.84	8.96	14.26	18.50
(b) Wages	0.26	0.50	0.89	2.30	3.17

6. Training of Weavers	0.05	0.11	0.23	0.88	1.16
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# 7. Pre-loom and post-loom facilities

9. Any other	..	....	..	...	....
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Total	15.76	27.44	34.15	50.94	61.80
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(b) Expenditure on E. O. H. P. for the period from 1977-78 to 1980-81 are shown below :—

Components	1976-77 to 1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
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# (a) Building for office Dye house, Godown etc.

(i) Vehicle	...	0.56	...
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(ii) House Rent	...	0.22	0.25
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(b) Interest Charges	..	..	..
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(c) Furniture & Fitures	...	0.16	0.32
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(d) Machinery & Equipment for Dye-House.	..	..	...
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(e) Margin money for working Capital	5.70	3.11	3.60
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(f) Modernisation of looms	..	...	..
(i) Conversion of pit looms	..	...	..



(ii) Purchase of Dobbies	...	...	...
(iii) Purchase of Take up motions	..	...	...
(iv) Any other	..	..	...
(g) Project Administration	0.12	0.88	1.89
(h) Weaver Training	....	...	...
(i) Miscellaneous	...	0.02	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.82</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>6.09</b>
<b>Progressive Total</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>10.77</b>	<b>16.86</b>

### Achievements of Targets :—

The Annual targets of production, training, supply of warping drums, modernisation of looms are given in the scheme for both the projects. The position of achievements are shown below :—

### (a) Year-wise production (in lakhs rupees)

	I. H. D. P.	E. O. H. P.
1977-78	0.37	0.29
1978-79	2.96	5.41
1979-80	4.30	6.88
1980-81	4.02	7.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.65 lakhs</b>	<b>19.76 lakhs</b>

### (b) Training ;—

5 Training Centres were opened under the I.H.D.P. and 850 weavers were given three months training. under E.O.H.P. no training was imparted.

### (c) Pre-loom facilities :—



Against the target 200 warping drums, the I.H.D.P. procured 54 nos warping drums upto 31st March 1981. No further infrastructural facilities for pre-loom and Post-loom processing could be set up. No facilities were created under the D.O.H.P.

(d) Modernisation of looms:—

Under the I.H.D.P., 5631 looms were modernised upto 31st March 1981 at a cost of Rs.23,32,197.04. No looms were modernised under the E.O.H.P.

Under the E.O.H.P. looms covered under the project were:

1977-78	38 nos.
1978-79	77 "
1979-80	25 "
1980-81	44 "
1981-82	28 "

Total 212 nos.

(c) No of looms engaged for production:—

All the looms modernised were not engaged for production. Looms engaged for production are mentioned below project-wise.

(i) I.H.D.P.

1977-78	...	796 Nos.
1978-79	...	1,098 "
1979-80	...	2,092 "
1980-81	...	5,631 "

(ii) E.O.H.P. —

1977-78	...	38 Nos.
1978-79	...	153 "
1979-80	...	425 "
1980-81	...	588 "



### Monitoring arrangements :

The comments of the CAG are perhaps related the Department regarding monitoring arrangement etc. The Corporation, however, and examined its own records to find out what information were furnished to the Department in the form of progress Reports etc. towards monitoring.

It appears from records that monitoring of the projects were done by the Development Commissioner, Handloom, Government of India. For this purpose, regular progress Reports were submitted on financial aspects and physical aspects to the then Director of Sericulture and Weaving Assam in the following ways.

(i) Monthly progress Reports were submitted to the then Director, Sericulture & Weaving, Assam from January, 1978 as desired by him vide his letter No. SWP. 100/77/62 dated. 15th December 1977.

(ii) Audited utilisation Certificates of both the Projects were submitted for the periods ending on :—

(a) 31st December 1978.

(b) 31st March 1979, 1980, 1981 upto 1985.

(iii) The Development Commissioner, Handloom, Government of India introduce prescribed forms of questionnaire for Annual Evaluation which were duly filled up by the Corporation and submitted direct to the Development Commissioner, Handlooms with copy endorsed to the Director, Sericulture and Weaving upto 31st March 1970 and then every year and at 31st March accompanied by audited statement of accounts.

(iv) The monthly Progress Report on I. H. D. P. for January and February, 1980 were returned back by the Development Commissioner to the then Director, Sericulture and Weaving as unrequired vide his letter No.48043/2/78 E&A (Proj) dated 13th October 1980 and introduced quarterly Progress Reports.

(v) The I. H. D. P. Schemes ceased to be a centrally sponsored Project vide Government letter No.SWP-137/74/21, dated 3rd August 1979 with effect from 1st April 1979 but



the Development Commissioner for Handlooms intimated that the previous arrangement for monitoring the activities of the Project and their evaluation would continue to be done by the Central Government as per his D.O.No-1(4)/79-Project, dated 3rd September 1979.

(vi) The Project were treated under the new 20 point programme and progress monitored by the Central Government through Revised proforma received from Development Commissioner for Handlooms vide his D. O. No.2/1/82-Project dated 3rd April 1982. Quarterly Progress Reports on both the projects were submitted to the Development Commissioner for Handlooms since the quarter ending on 31st March, 1982,

(vii) The State Government also revised formats of quarterly Progress Reports in the P. E. Department from the quarter ending 30th June, 1982 which the Corporation had been regularly submitting to the Government.

The above facts are expected to give a clear picture on the monitoring aspects of the Project.

## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.6.3. The Scheme 'Intensive Development of Handloom' and 'Export Orientation Project' for development of Handloom were taken-up in 1976-77 in a big way at an outlay of Rs. 83.35 lakhs for implementation through the Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd. and Project Board, Nalbari. The money advanced was recoverable.

2.6.4. Now, the Committee would like to know the specific replies from the Department on the following —

(i) How much of the money advance has been recovered? The loan was recoverable in 10 equal instalments starting from the first anniversary date of each loan. The first instalment of the loan amounting to Rs. 25.75 lakhs was received during 1977-78. Now, it is to be made specific whether any steps were taken for recovery after an anniversary and similar action in respect of subsequent instalments of the loan.



(ii) Why the Department could not get the Project evaluated through their own implementing agency or through the Evaluation wing of the P. & D. Department and result obtained ?

(iii) The implementing agency spent an amount of Rs. 14.54 lakhs during 1st February 1977 to 31st March 1981 on Vehicle (Rs. 0.51 lakh), Furniture (0.73 lakh) Pay and T. A. etc, (Rs. 13.30 lakhs) in the name of Project administration, which is more than 17 P. C. of the total outlay. When the Project was showing loss, why such a huge amount was spent for Project administration ?

2.6.5. Of late, the Department constituted an enquiry Committee to enquire into the causes of financial loss, persons responsible and to suggest remedial measures for the revival of Intensive Handloom Development Project and to submit a report within three months (constituted on 7th October, 1988). Now the Committee would like to have the findings of the Committee for this purpose.



## CHAPTER—III

### Action on Audit Objections.

3.1.1. It is seen that the Sericulture and Weaving Development did not take timely action to meet audit objection raised incomes of test Checks of their accounts records. The position is as follow :—

Sl. No.	Year of CAG Report	Ref. to para No.	Remarks made in audit
1	1974—75 (civil)	3.17	The matter was referred to the Government in November 1975; reply is awaited (May 1976).
2	1976—77 (civil)	3.30	These observations were referred to the Government in October, 1977; reply is awaited (March, 1978).
3	1977—78 (civil)	5.8	The matter was referred to the Government in August 1978; Government accepted the facts (December, 1978).
4	1979—80 (civil)	3.15(a)	The matter was referred to the Government in November, 1980; reply is awaited (February, 1981).
		3.15(b)	The matter was referred to the Government in September 1980; reply is awaited (February, 1981).
5	1981-82 (civil)	5.7	The matter was referred to the Government in September, 1982; reply is awaited (April 1983).



3.1.2. To reduce the number of outstanding audit objections, the Department stated to have issued instructions (vide their written memorandum furnished to the P.A.C.) to their drawing and disbursing officers to furnish necessary replies to the objections issued by Accountant General, Assam and to take adequate step for speedy settlement. They have also taken action for settlement of the outstanding paras against which the replies have been furnished by the drawing and disbursing officers. The D. D. Os are also further directed to depute office assistant to the office of the Accountant General, Assam, Guahati alongwith the replies of the outstanding paras and to settle the same by personal contact. It is however not intimated to P.A.C. the volume of outstanding audit objections/inspections Report of the Department and the reasons for not taking timely action for settlement.

3.1.3. The necessity for taking timely action in setting the audit objections needs no illaboration. The P. A. C. observes from experience that some audit paras got mentioned in the C. A. G. reports only because of not taking timely action by the Accounting officer at source or within the stipulated time. In this connection, it may be relevant to mention below the procedure and settlement of audit objections:

In course of audit if any irregularity is noticed, a preliminary objection statement (P. O. S.) is issued on the spot requesting the head of the office for clarification and reply. On receipt of replies to the P. O. S. (if furnished by the head of the office) the objections are settled on the spot if the replies are satisfactory. Also the objections raised during audit are discussed with the head of the office and there after only the objections, which cannot be properly replied to on the spot during discussion are incorporated in the final audit not submitted by the audit parties to the head quarter office of the Accountant General for examination.

The audit note received from the audit parties are examined by the Accountant General and issued to the departmental offices for replies. The copies of the audit notes are also endorsed to the head of the Department and to Government drawing their attention particularly to the important objections likely to be featured in the Audit



Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and requesting them for furnishing their comments. If the comments of the department/Government are not convincing or if no replies are received, the important objections are proposed for inclusion in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report. Even at that stage a copy of the draft paragraph, before inclusion in the Audit Report, is forwarded to the head of the department and to the Government for replies giving them six weeks time, so that the Government's replies can be considered before inclusion of the para in the Audit Report.

Thus before inclusion of a para in Audit Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the department gets sufficient time (sometimes more than three to six months) to furnish their replies.

3.1.4. The Committee re-iterate their earlier recommendations contained in para 6.2 and 6.3 of the 47th Report for following the instructions contained in Chief Secretary's circular No. CS (SDP) 18892 dated 11-8-88 and for taking particular care in meeting the audit objections at the first available opportunity as a time bound programme by fixing specific responsibility upon the concerned officers.



## SUMMERY OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. Para  
No. No.

5 1.3.4. The Committee feels that the audit observation in this part are similar with the paras on Mulbarry culture dealt in the subsequent paragraphs, hence the Committee would formulate its observations and recommendations along with the subsequent paras.

6 1.4.9. The audit para give the tergatted and actual production of Muga and Mulbarry silk upto 1973-74. For a realistic study on this important socioeconomic culture of the people inhabiting in Assam, the Committee would like to know the following :—

(a) The planned target and actuals of production of Eri, Muga and Mulbarry during the 5th and 6th plan periods; (b) As reported in audit, there were marked shortfall as per norms of production of layings compared to seed cocoons and in production of cocoons compared to the number of layings. The reasons may be analysed and the present position be intimated. (c) The No. of sericultural farms in the state and (d) revaluation report on the performance of these farms with particular reference to cost ratio benefit for the period from 1st April, 1982 to 31st March, 1986.

7 1.5.4. The Committee could not understand why did the Manager, Sericulture Farms, Titabor produced 976 bags of cement which could not beutilised within next two years.

8 1.5.5. The Committee would further like to know the detail particulars of the buildings entrusted to P.W.D. for construction on their behalf with original estimated cost, material component of the schemes including cement, subsequent revision there of if any and the time taken for completion of construction and why despite of having an Engineering wing in the



Directorate, the work could not be carried-out departmentally and how the services of the engineers and other technical personnels were utilised during the period. The information may be made known within a period of three months from its presentation in the House.

9 1.6.3 The unspent balance in the first case is Rs. 0.56 lakh (8.43 %) and in the second case it is Rs. 0.34 lakh ( 22.05% ) whatever money the department utilised, it could be spent with inordinate delay. The utilization certificates in respect of the amount ( Rs. 3.29 lakh ) from the assistance head of Rs. 6.64 lakhs paid to the Assam Plains Tribal Development Corporation Ltd. has not been received by audit till February, 1981. In all probability, the Department might had a definite programme under Tribal Sub-plan, in so far as the accounts are concerned for which they got the sanction from Government of India.

10 1.6.5 The Committee is constrained to note that due laxity of some officials the amount of central assistance could not either promptly be utilised or had to be refunded. Now the Committee would like to have a comprehensive report on the issues involved and the reasons for which a part of the amount was refunded.

11 1.7.3. In respect of this para the Department have stated interalia that completion of the project was delayed due to scarcity of cement in the market. In another case (Audit para 5.8/CAG, 1977-78 and A CP. para 1.4.1. to 1.4.4. of this report) the Department stated that they purchased a stock of cement but the stock could not be utilised. This is an instance of cases how the Department sometimes take unconcealable position in their stand. Sometimes the Department is seen not in a position to release their stock but at time found short of materials. It is of some interest to know whether the Department has any material programme in relation to its projects construction action.



12. 1.7.4 The Committee is unhappy to note that the Department made an outlay of Rs. 4.70 lakhs which remain idle for about four years by not constructing the suitable place to install the machines.
13. 1.7.5. Now, coming to the points of achievement of the objectives of having the reeling machines for helping the private rearers etc., the Committee would like to have a detail report thereof.
14. 2.1.5. The Committee is happy to note that our state is far advanced with about 13.98 lakhs of looms providing full or part-time employment to nearly 19 lakhs of weavers. The Committee would, however, like to know the achievement both physical & fiscal on Handloom, Handicraft & Khadi during the 5th & 6th plan periods with a brief write-up of the plan schemes implemented by the Department.
15. 2.1.6. It appears from the expenditure figures under para 2.1.1. that both plan & non-plan expenditure during the period under Report increased many-fold. The Committee would, therefore, like to know whether the developmental activities of the Department have also increased in conformity with the increase of expenditure. The Department may make an analytical study and intimate the report to the Committee within a period of three months from the date of presentation of the Report before the House.
16. 2.2.5. Going to the replies furnished by Government to the Committee it is seen that the two handloom production centres at Nalbari and Jorhat could not achieve the target as envisaged. The period subsequent to the period under Report, though shown some improvement in turn-over, still remained uneconomic.
17. 2.2.6. The Committee, therefore, feels that there should be proper cost analysis of the transactions made from 84-85 to 87-88 as cited by the Department. The Committee would also like to know the wage structure during



the period. The Report as sought for, may be furnished within a period of three months from the date of presentation of this Report.

18. 2.3.4. The Government took-up Handloom Development Scheme in the 4th plan to make weaving remunerative, to increase production of quality handloom, to create additional employment etc.. Now the Committee would like to know if this project taken-up by the Department was ever evaluated.

19. 2.3.5. The disproportionate loss sustained implementing the scheme is attempted to be defended on the plea that it is a social service scheme. But even in case of social service schemes the question of cost ration benefit has to be considered. The Committee, would therefore, like to know from the Department position obtained in 5th and 6th plan with a special reference about the pay structure involved in payment in remunerative wages to weavers. The report may be made available within a period of three months from the date of its presentation.

20. 2.4.4. Under the training scheme, the trainees were to be given one year's training course in improved & up-to-date method of handloom weaving with the aim that the trainees after successful completion, can take-up this profession gainfully. Now, in the light of the replies of the Department the object donot appear to have been served. The Committee would therefore, like to know why the projected purposes could not be served and the utilisation of selfemployment could not be monitored.

21. 2.5.3. The Committee is happy to note that the entire amount in both the cases have been recovered to make good the loss. In this connection, the Committee observes that the recoveries were made only after the facts of suspected misappropriation of assets created by the lowly paid weavers were reported in



test audit. Hence the Committee feels that the Department should take necessary steps for effective internal audit of the accounts for prevention of such cases in future.

22. 2.5.4. The Committee further recommends that the Government should take drastic action against those who are found guilty of serious dereliction of duties, misconduct, questionable integrity, moral turpitude etc, to boost-up morales of these who are dutiful.

23. 2.6.3. The scheme 'Intensive Development of Handloom' and Export Orientation project for Development of handloom were taken-up in 1976-77 in a big way at an outlay of Rs. 83.35 lakhs for implementation through the Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd. and Project Board, Nalbari. The money advanced was recoverable.

24. 2.6.4. Now, the Committee would like to know the specific replies from the Department on the following: (i) How much of the money advanced has been recovered? The loan was recoverable in ten equal instalments starting from the first anniversary that of each loan. The first instalment of the loan amounting to Rs. 25.75 lakhs was received during 1977-78. Now it is to be made specific whether any steps were taken for recovery after an anniversary and similar action in respect of subsequent instalment of the loan. (ii) Why the Department could not get the project evaluated through their own implementing agency or through the Evaluation wing of the planning & Development Department and result obtained? (iii) The implementing agency spent an amount of Rs. 14.54 lakhs during 1st February 1977 to 31st March 1981 on Vehicle (Rs. 0.51 lakh) Furniture (0.73 lakh) pay & T. A. etc. (Rs. 13.30 lakh) in the name of project administration, which is more than 17% of the total outlay. When the project was showing loss, why such a huge amount was spent for project administration.



25. 2.6.5. Of late, the Department constituted an enquiry Committee to enquire in to the causes of financial loss, persons responsible and to suggest remedial measures for the revival of the Intensive Handloom Development Project and to submit a report within 3 months (constituted on 7th October 1988.) Now the Committee would like to have the findings of the Committee constituted for this purpose

26. 3.1.4. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation contained in Paras 6.2 & Para 6.3 of the 47th report for following the instructions contained in Chief Secretary's circular No. C.S. (SDP)1/8892 dtd. 11th August 1988 and for taking particular care in meeting the audit objections at the first available opportunity as a time bound programme by fixing specific responsibility upon the concerned officers.



## ANNEXURE—I

Report in regard to purchase of cement for departmental construction in 1975-76.

During July 1975 we purchased a quantity of 8,660 bags of cement for construction of departmental buildings. Since the workload of construction was heavy in 1975-76, Government after due discussion with Chief Engineer, Public Works Department and Director, Sericulture and Weaving on 23rd December 1975 had entrusted some buildings construction works to P.W.D. for early execution as intimated vide letter No. T/BP/N/120/75, dated 27th December 1975 addressed by Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (R & B). Accordingly Administrative approval were accorded by Secretary, Sericulture and Weaving etc. vide letter, No. SEG. 43/76/273, dated 26th February 1976 with request also to take the cement purchased by the Director, Sericulture and Weaving for construction of the said buildings. The Additional Chief Engineer had regretted his inability to lift the quota of cement vide his letter No. CEG. 140/75/264, dated 31st March 1976 and in response to it we stated vide our D.O.No. SC/89/75/59, dated 5th April 1976 to Chief Engineer that the entire quota of cement was purchased for construction of buildings entrusted to him and we have no other building to be construction at our end. Hence the same is to be taken over by them for its proper utilisation. At the same time we requested the superintendent of Sericulture, Jorhat and Principal, Sericulture Training Institute, Titabar to contact Mahkuma Parisad, Jorhat/Golaghat and Agricultural University, Jorhat and the Superintendent of Sericulture Haflong to contact District Council, Haflong if they are interested with the cement at our stock, but no demand came from any corner as reported by the Officers concerned.

The Chief Engineer, in response to our D.O. letter indicated above, had directed the Executive Engineer, Haflong to lift the quota of 3,548 bags of cement vide letter No. CEG. 140/75/284, dated 12th April, 1976 and to the Executive Engineer, Jorhat to lift 2,816 bags of cement vide No. CEG. 140/75/289, dated 22nd May 1976. At the



same time Secretary, Sericulture and Weaving had also requested the Secretary, P.W.D. (R and B) for lifting of the entire quota of cement from the Store of the Department of Sericulture and Weaving at Titabar and Haflong vide his letter D.O. No. SWG. 43/76, dated 26th May 1976 and reminded vide No. SWG. 43/76/327, dated 22nd July 1976.

Moreover the Principal, S.T.I. Titabar had approached the Deputy Commissioner Sibsagar, Jorhat, Assam to lift the departmental Cements Stored at S.T.I.L. Titabar vide his letter No. S.T.I. 15/75/29, dated 29th April 1976 besides submission of monthly returns to D.C. on the other hand the Principal personally met the Assistant Director of Ind. Sibsagar, Jorhat, Assam and requested him to lift the cement vide his letter No. S.T.I.L. 15/75/66, dated 16th October 1976.

Since there was no tangible action at the end of P.W.D. till June 1976 we submitted a proposal to Government in Sericulture and Weaving Department, requested them to take up the question of handing over the cement stored by us to Supply Department vide our letter No. SC.2/71/392, dated 23rd June 1978 and at the same time to persue P.W.D. vide our letter No. SC 2/71/414, dated 31st July 1976.

Since P.W.D. was not inclined to lift the quota inspite of repeated requests from higher authority, we had no other alternative but to move Government to allow us to auction the whole quota 3922 bags of cement vide this Office letter No. SG 89/95/133, dated 5th November 1976. This was reminded subsequently in January, 1977, March, 1977 and June 1977. Minutes of Discussion in the meeting of the Secretary P.W.D. (R and B) Assam Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Assam and the Director of Sericulture and Weaving Department Assam held on 23rd December 1975 in the chamber of the Secretary P.W.D. Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6.

During discussion held in the meeting, the Sericulture and Weaving Department desired to entrust some Building construction works to the P.W.D. It was stated that the total outlay of these building projects is Rs. 56.00 lakhs (approx) as per their estimate out of these amount the Director of Sericulture and Weaving Department Assam proposed to entrust works costing about Rs. 10.53505 lakhs at the followidg sites to P.W.D. and the balance will be com.



pieted by them departmentally as these works are already under execution as reported by the Sericulture and Weaving Department. Accordingly to P.W.D. norms and specification, the estimated cost of these works proposed to be transferred to the P.W.D. would be approximately Rs 55,007 lakhs against the estimated cost of Rs. 28.82 lakhs framed by them.

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hira basti       | Under Nowgaon East Division. |
| 2. Haibar           | —do—                         |
| 3. Nowgaon Town     | Nowgaon West.                |
| 4. Morigaon         | —do—                         |
| 5. Jamuguri         | Charali Division.            |
| 6. Beseria          | Tezpur Division.             |
| 7. Rangali          | Dibrugarh Division.          |
| 8. Khowang          | —do—                         |
| 9. Bardubi          | —do—                         |
| 10. North Lakhimpur | N. L. Division.              |
| 11. Dhemaji         | Ghilamara.                   |
| 12. Pallapool       | M. C. C. Silchar.            |
| 13. Howli           | Barpeta Division.            |
| 14. Bhokatpara      | Guwahati Building Divn.      |
| 15. Kahitoma        | Barpeta                      |
| 16. Khanapara       | T.C. Divn. Guwahati.         |
| 17. Laikul          | Haflong Divn.                |
| 18. Haflong         | Haflong Divn.                |
| 19. Labang          | —do—                         |



20. Sangbar Haflong Divn.  
 21. Khorongma do—  
 22. Titabar Jorhat Building Divn.  
 23. Maibong Maibong Divn.  
 24. Dellagi Diphu Divn.  
 25. Kheroni Baitl alongso Divn.

After careful consideration, inspite of limited time available for execution of the projects, the P.W.D. has agreed to take up the works as proposed and accordingly started preparation of necessary plan and estimate as per list furnished by the Director of Sericulture and Weaving Department, Assam, Guwahati.

Shri S. D. PHENE, IAS,  
 Seceretary, Sericulture &  
 Weaving Department.

D.O.No.SWG. 43/76

Dt. Dispnr, the 26th  
 May 1976,

Dear Shri Barua,

Kindly refer to my letter No. SWG. 43/76/273 dated 26th February 1976 about taking over some cement ordered by the Director of Sericulture & Weaving for the construction works of this Department which were subsequently transferred to your Department for execution.

It is learnt that about 3,500 bags of cement have thus been stored at Haflong and about 4,200 bag at Titabar. It appears that though the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. has instructed the executive Engineer, Haflong to lift the cement stored at Haflong on 12th April 1976, these bags have not been lifted so far while no orders have been issued for lifting the cement at Titabar.

You will kindly appreciate the necessity of using this cement in the works for which it was indented. Otherwise



heavy loss will have to be incurred by the Government particularly in view on the fact that it is not possible these days to dispose of cement easily.

4. As the works for which this cement was indented have been transferred to the P.W.D., it would be but proper that this cement be used in these constructions. I would, therefore, request you kindly to issue suitable instructions for urgent lifting of this cement. I would be obliged if the action taken is kindly intimated most urgently.

With regards.

Yours sincerely.

(S. D. Phene)

Shri H. Barua,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
P.W.D.(R&B) Department,  
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Noo

Copy to Shri B.N. Baruah, ACS. Director of Sericulture & Weaving, Assam, Guwahati with reference to his D.O. letter No. SC. 2/71/386-87, dated 26th May 1976. He is requested kindly to follow up action.

Sd/-(S.D Phene)