



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (G) DEPARTMENTS
2025-2026**

**FIFTEENTH
ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Report on Demands for the Grant No. 70
For the year 2025-2026**

DEPARTMENT : HILL AREAS

SECOND REPORT

Presented to the House on 21st March, 2025

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

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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (G) DEPARTMENTS,
2025-26**

CHAIRMAN:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Shri Rupak Sarmah, | MLA |
|----|--------------------|-----|

MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| 2. | Shri Terash Gowalla, | MLA |
| 3. | Shri Phanidhar Talukdar, | MLA |
| 4. | Shri Hemanga Thakuria, | MLA |
| 5. | Smti. Suman Haripriya, | MLA |
| 6. | Shri Dharmeswar Konwar, | MLA |
| 7. | Shri Nihar Ranjan Das, | MLA |
| 8. | Shri Abdus Sobahan Ali Sarkar, | MLA |
| 9. | Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah, | MLA |
| 10. | Shri Khalil Uddin Mazumder, | MLA |
| 11. | Shri Abdul Aziz, | MLA |
| 12. | Shri Zakir Hussain Laskar, | MLA |
| 13. | Shri Akhil Gogoi, | MLA |

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
2. Smti. Bhashwatie Borah Rajguru, Deputy Secretary,
3. Smti. Susmita Das , OSD (Under Secretary),
4. Dr. Kanun Basumatary, Under Secretary,
5. Shri Achyut Sarma, Committee Officer,
6. Shri Pankaj Kumar Sarma , OSD to MLA Hostel.

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments having been authorized by the Committee to present the **Second Report** on their behalf on the demands for **Grant no. 70** relating to **Hill Areas Department** for the financial year 2025-2026.
2. The committee took evidence of the Government representatives on **13th March, 2025**.
3. The Committee wishes to place its thanks to the representatives of concerned Department who appeared before the Committee and placed their considered views and notes. The Committee also like to thanks the Department for furnishing the replies on the points raised by the Committee.
4. The report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **17th March, 2025**.
5. The Committee also expresses its thanks to the officers and staff of the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat, who devoted their time and energy in processing and compilation of the report within a very short span of time for their Secretarial assistance & co-operation.

Dispur :

The 17th March, 2025

RUPAK SARMAH

Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (G) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER -1

Grant No.70

Hill Areas

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the Financial Year, 2025-26, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments in its meeting held on 13th March, 2025 discussed on **Grant No. 70 (Hill Areas)**.

1.1 The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments in its meeting held on **13th March, 2025** examined the papers and documents received from the Concerned department and took evidence of the Departmental representative.

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs. In lakhs)
VOTED	594.12	159.43	753.55
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

1.2 The detailed Budget Estimates under the Grant No.70 for the Financial Year 2025-26 are as below :-

		(Rupees in Lakhs)
Head of Accounts	Major Head	
3451	Secretariat Economic Services	594.12
4851	Capital Outlay on village and small industries	0.00
5475	Capital outlay of other General Economic services	23.43
6851	Loans for village and small scale Industries	136.00

Grand Total Rs. 753.55

1.3 Budget Provision Under Grant No.70 in relating to the Hill Areas. The amount so allocated before the House and in proposed to be spent in revenue and capital expenditure respectively.

Background behind creation of office of the Development Commissioner for Hill Areas, Assam (DCHA) :

A joint Centre-State Study Team was constituted in 1965 by the Planning Commissioner (now NITI Aayog), Government of India to study the development programmes of the Hill Areas of Assam. The team was headed by Shri Tarlok Singh, the Member, Planning Commission which later became known as Tarlok Singh Committee. The Committee suggested to (1) Constitute a Planning Board for the Assam Hill Region which should presided over by the Chief Minister and (2) to appoint a Development Commissioner for the Assam Region who would also function as Secretary to the Planning Board for the region. Accordingly, office of the Development Commissioner for Hill Areas of Assam was established in 1966 under the Administrative Department of Hill Areas Department, to coordinate the developmental works in the Hill Areas of Assam more or less in the same line as the Transformation & Development Department for the plain areas of the state.

Assam Hills Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (AHSIDC Ltd.):

There is a Corporation named "Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd." a Government of Assam undertaking Corporation under the Administrative control of the Hill Areas Department, Govt. of Assam established its office at Manja, Karbi Anglong, Assam. The Corporation became sick & defunct from the year 2000-01. Later, with the support of the Government and the initiatives of the Management, the Corporation is now at the revival status and making operational profits by implementing various diversified projects/schemes etc. like Package Drinking Water Bottling project and set up agro-based industries e.g Food Processing units, Mustard Oil Mill etc. including plantation of Chitronella and Rubber trees. The Corporation is also creating market linkage for the farmers/growers to some extent from the year 2012-13 to till date. The Corporation is doing some modernization and up-gradation works with of the Govt. out of the annual budget provision.

Since inception, budget allocation in respect of the Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd.(AHSIDC) is made under Grant No.70 (General Area) operated by the Development Commissioner for Hill Areas, Assam. The Hill Areas Department releases the budgeted amount to the Development Commissioner for Hill Areas, Assam, being a DDO of the Grant No.70, for implementation of various schemes/ projects etc. as undertaken by the Corporation.

Significant activities and achievements:

An amount of Rs. 459.02 lakh was released under Grant No.70 during the financial year 2023-24 under Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation (AHSIDC) Ltd, out of which Rs. 100.00 lakh is earmarked as State Share/Promoter Contribution (10%) against the proposed project "upgradation of Manja Industrial Estate" under MSME scheme, Govt. of India. Accordingly, AHSIDC Ltd. submitted UC against the released fund.

The AHSIDC Ltd. is basically producing and marketing various agricultural products like pineapple, mango, orange, citronella grass, turmeric, ginger, juices, spices etc. In its brand name 'KAANCH', this Corporation is providing employment and market linkage for local people. The AHSIDC Ltd. has done modernization & upgradation works in the existing production units by additional plants & machineries out of the fund so received. The Government has converted (loan + interest) to equity for Rs. 6022.48 lakh by way of Book Adjustment by the Hon'ble Cabinet on 07/12/2023 so that the Corporation gets relieve from burden of repayment of loan etc.

Priority Schemes proposed to be taken during 2024:

The Ministry of MSME, Government of India has approved the scheme "upgradation of Manja Industrial Estate" for Rs. 1000.00 lakh only on recommendation of Government of Assam & MSME Guwahati Division. Accordingly, this will be the first instance to have an Industrial Estate in Karbi Anglong under the scheme "promotion of MSME in NER & Sikkim.

Budget provision under SOPD Grant No.70 for last three years are shown below :

(Rs. In lakh)

Financial year	Description	Revenue	Capital	Expenditure
2021-22	DCHA Estt.	462.15	--	186.86
	Construction of - (i) Library-cum-Auditorium at Bakalia and (ii) Karbi Cultural Hall at Umrangso.	240.00	--	--
	CSS (Article-275(I))	1326.78	--	--
	GIA(Non-salary) to AHSIDC Ltd.	310.00	--	280.00
	GIA (Salary) to AHSIDC Ltd. (through S/D)	634.00	--	634.00

	Loan to APCDC Ltd.	--	15.00	
	Loan to AHSIDC Ltd.	--	188.00	188.00
	Total	2972.93	203.00	1288.86

Financial year	Description	Revenue	Capital	Expenditure
2022-23	DCHA Estt.	473.73	--	191.62
	GIA(Non-salary) to AHSIDC Ltd.	390.00	--	--
	GIA (Salary) to AHSIDC Ltd.	0.02	--	--
	Loan to APCDC Ltd.	--	16.50	--
	Loan to AHSIDC Ltd.	--	200.00	--
	Total :	863.75	216.50	191.62

Financial year	Description	Revenue	Capital	Expenditure
2023-24	DCHA Estt.	323.85	17.78	190.90
	GIA(Non-salary) to AHSIDC Ltd.	--	297.00	297.00
	GIA (Salary) to AHSIDC Ltd.	0.02	--	--
	Loan to APCDC Ltd.	--	162.00	162.00
	Loan to AHSIDC Ltd.	--	--	--
	Total :	323.87	476.78	649.90

**Action Taken Report on the Observations and Recommendations of the Assembly
Committee on Grant No.70 – Hill Areas Department.**

Sl no	Observations and Recommendations of the Committee	Action taken /to be taken by the Department
1	The Committee recommends the Department to provide necessary training to unemployed youth so that they may engage themselves in various activities which may lead to self employment for the local youths.	<p>Recommendation of the Assembly Committee is considered as top priority. However, due to shortage of fund, training to the local unemployed youth in various activities could not be provided during the current financial year 2023-24.</p> <p>A comprehensive training will be conducted in various aspects like scientific farming, production of agro-based food, processed food products etc. in the next financial year 2025-26 in consultation with the line Departments.</p>
2	The Committee observed that there is huge potential for the tourism sector in the Hill Areas, therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to work in close connectivity with the Tourism Department for upliftment of the Tourism sector in this region.	Apart from the initiatives of the Autonomous Councils of KAAC and DHAC, the Corporation is also trying to develop the Tourism sector in the region provided the govt. fund provision is available.
3	The Committee observed that there is huge potential for ginger based industries etc. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to work in close proximity with the Agriculture & Industries and Commerce Department for setting up Industries or units related to ginger which will ultimately benefit the local people at large.	The Corporation has been trying effortlessly to set up Ginger based Industries in the region. However, still not materialized due to lack of Capital investment.
4	The Committee observed that there is a lot of necessity for the local youth for special training like mushroom cultivation, rubber plantation and also the training for making ginger powder, bamboo shoot pickle and king chili pickle as well, which will ultimately benefit the local youths at large. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to	A special training in this regard for the local youths will be conducted shortly by engaging resource persons in consultation with the line department as well as Agriculture Department etc.

	work closely with the Agriculture and Industry Department for upliftment of the local youths of Hill areas in this regard.	
5	<p>The Committee observed that there is a huge possibility for village industry in the Hill areas. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to work on it with the Industries and Commerce Department for upliftment and betterment of Hills areas people.</p>	<p>Apart from the initiatives of the Autonomous Councils of KAAC and DHAC, the Corporation is also trying to uplift the Industrial sector in the region.</p> <p>Now the revival Corporation is creating Industrial Estate in the existing complex at Manja under the scheme of MSME, Govt. of India for the interest of the ST entrepreneurs and others.</p>
6	<p>The Committee observed that there is a huge scope to develop the betelnut cultivation and fruits plantation like orange, pineapple etc.</p> <p>Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Department should take steps in this regard for the welfare of the people resides in Hill Areas.</p>	<p>The Agriculture Department has been conducting this kind of training program from time to time with facilities etc. incultivation of betelnut and fruits plantation in scientific method to yield more production.</p> <p>However , the Corporation will also take initiative for the same with the line departments.</p>
7	<p>The Committee observed that there are lot of scopes/possibility in the Hill Areas Department. Therefore, the Committee suggested to increase the budget allocation for the FY 2024-25.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Budgetary allocation provided under Grant No.70 for the Financial Year 2024-25 for the Hill Areas Department be approved by the August House.</p>	<p>During 2024-25, proposal for enhancement of Budget provision from Rs.459.00 lakh to Rs.850.00 lakh was submitted to the Govt. However, Finance Department allocated Rs.433.00 lakh only in respect of AHSIDC Ltd. under Grant No.70.</p>

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
NOTIFICATION

No. LA.DRSC.(G) 1/2025/01

Date Dispur the 1st February, 2025.

In pursuance of the Rule 260-I (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly has been pleased to nominate the following Members to constitute the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments.

1. Shri Rupak Sarmah,	MLA & Chairman
2. Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
3. Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
4. Shri Hemanga Thakuria,	MLA & Member
5. Smti. Suman Haripriya,	MLA & Member
6. Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
7. Shri Nihar Ranjan Das,	MLA & Member
8. Shri Abdus Sobahan Ali Sarkar,	MLA & Member
9. Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah,	MLA & Member
10. Shri Khalil Uddin Mazumder,	MLA & Member
11. Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
12. Shri Zakir Hussain Laskar,	MLA & Member
13. Shri Akhil Gogoi,	MLA & Member

And in pursuance of Sub-Rule (3) of the Rule 260-I(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly has been pleased to appoint Shri Rupak Sarmah, MLA & Member of the Committee as the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments.

The term of office of the Members of the Committee shall not exceed 1 (one) year from the date constitution.

Sd/- D. Pegu
Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly.

Dated Dispur the 1st February, 2025.

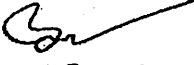
Memo No. LA.DRSC, (G).1/2025/ 02-14

Copy forwarded to:-

1. Shri Rupak Sarmah, MLA & Chairman, Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments for favour of his kind information.
2. All Members of Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly for kind information.
3. The Private Secretary to the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of his kind information.
4. The O.S.D. to Deputy Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for his kind information.
5. The Private Secretary to Leader of the Opposition, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of kind information.
6. The Private Secretary to Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly for his kind information.

Contd /-

7. The Director, Assam Govt. Press, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati-21 for favour of publication of the above notification in the next issue of the Assam Gazette in Part-I. Five Spare copies of the same may be pleased supplied to this Secretariat for records.
8. The Principal Accountant General, Assam, Maidamgaon, Beltola, Guwahati-29.
9. The Chief Reporter Cum Editor of Debates & Ex- Officio- Joint Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly for information and necessary action.
10. The OSD (Joint Secretary), In -charge Nazarat Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly for information.
11. The Accounts Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly, Dispur for information.
12. All Officer In-charge of different Legislature Committees, Assam Legislative Assembly for information.
13. The Officer-in Charge Website branch, Assam Legislative Assembly, Dispur for information.


Deputy Secretary
Assam Legislative Assembly.

OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Hill Areas

GRANT No. 70

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the Financial Year 2025-26 and after having a comprehensive discussion on Preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report, the Committee made the following observations and Recommendations.

1. The Committee strongly recommends that the Department should give utmost importance in setting up of Agro-based Industry in the Hill areas.

2. The Committee observed that there is a lot of necessity for the local youth for special training like mushroom cultivation, rubber plantation and also the training for making ginger powder, bamboo shoot pickle and king chili pickle as well, which will ultimately benefit the local youths at large. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to work closely with the Agriculture and Industry Department for upliftment of the local youths of Hill areas in this regard.

3. The Committee observes that there is more opportunities for ginger production specially in the districts of Karbi- Anglong and Dima-Hasao. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Department should establish ginger based industries or factories in the above mentioned districts.

4. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations that the Department should provide necessary training to unemployed youth so that they may engage themselves in various activities which may lead to self employment for the local youths.

5. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations that the Department should work in close connectivity with the Tourism Department for upliftment of the Tourism sector in the Hill areas.

6. The Committee observed that there is a huge possibility for village industry in the Hill areas. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations that the Department should work on it with the Industries and Commerce Department for upliftment and betterment of Hills areas people.

7. The Committee observed that there is a huge scope to develop the betel nut cultivation and fruits plantation like orange, pineapple etc. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations that the Department should take necessary steps in this regard for the welfare of the people resides in Hill Areas.

8. The Committee observed that there are lot of scopes/possibilities in the Hill Areas. Therefore, the Committee suggested to increase the budget allocation for the FY 2025-26.

The Committee recommends that the Budget allocation under Grant No. 70 for the Financial Year 2025-26 be for the Hill Areas Department be approved by the August House.

The Action taken Report on the recommendations may be submitted to the Committee within 90(ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report in the House.
