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COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS, 2022-2023

CHAIRMAN::

	Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita,	MLA & Chairman.
MEMBERS	S:	
2.	Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
3.	Shri Utpal Borah,	MLA & Member
4.	Shri Sibu Misra,	MLA & Member
5.	Shri Rupak Sarmah,	MLA & Member
6.	Shri Kaushik Rai,	MLA & Member
7.	Shri Taranga Gogoi,	MLA & Member
8.	Shri Diganta Kalita,	MLA & Member
9.	Shri Darsing Ronghang,	MLA & Member
10.	Shri Rupsing Teron,	MLA & Member
11.	Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
12.	Shri Bharat Chandra Narah,	MLA & Member
13.	Shri Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha,	MLA & Member
14.	Shri Jakir Hussain Sikdar,	MLA & Member
15.	Shri Nurul Huda,	MLA & Member
16.	Shri Rekibuddin Ahmed,	MLA & Member
17.	Shri Pradip Sarkar,	MLA & Member
18.	Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed,	MLA & Member
19.	Smti. Renupoma Rajkhowa,	MLA & Member
20.	Hafiz Bashir Ahmed,	MLA & Member
21.	Shri Aminul Islam (Senior),	MLA & Member
22.	Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
23.	Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
24.	Shri Charan Boro,	MLA & Member
25.	Shri Manoranjan Talukdar,	MLA & Member

OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri Hemen Das, IAS, Principal Secretary
- 2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary.
- 3. Smti. Prativa Teron, Joint Secretary.
- 4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary.
- 5. Shri Swapan Das, Protocol Officer.
- 6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Committee Officer.
- 7. Shri Fakhar Uddin Choudhury, Committee Officer.
- 8. Shri Mahen Chandra Doley, Superintendent...
- 9. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer.
- 10. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Assistant Language Officer.

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this TWENTY FOURTH REPORT on Demands for Grant No. 59 of the Handloom, Textile and Sericulture Department for the financial year, 2022-2023.
- 2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
- 3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Handloom, Textile & Sericulture Department on 23rd March, 2022.
- 4. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 26th March 2022.
- 5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the Handloom, Textile and Sericulture Department for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration.
- 6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Dispur: Dated 26-03-2022

Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Chairman,

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

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REPORT

CHAPTER-1

GRANT NO.-59

1.1 Introduction of Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam

Weaving and Handloom has a great tradition in the State of Assam and is inextricably linked to the Socio-cultural and economic life of the people, Assam boasts of being the State having about half of the country's looms and about 30 (thirty) lakhs people are directly or indirectly associated with weaving. Weaving in handlooms has provided maximum number of employment in the State next to Agriculture.

The Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam runs 102 nos. Handloom Training Centre, 4 nos. Handloom Training Institute, 98 nos. Weavers Extension Service Units, 20 Nos. Handloom Production Centre, 1 no. Handloom research and Designing Centre, 1 Product Procurement Centre under production programme. All the centres are for the benefit of weavers outside the Co-operative sector. The Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation is the State level corporation to look after these weavers. The three pronged Co-operative (organized) sectors consist of more than 1988 Primary Weavers Cooperatives Societies, 7 nos. Regional/District level Cooperative Societies and 1 no. Apex Co-operative Society. Assam is the home of Muga and Eri silk. Besides, the State produces Mulberry silk also to some extent.

The Co-operative coverage is about 15% of the State weavers population which is far below the national coverage. In the Twelfth Five Years Plan period, the Co-operative coverage has been targeted to be raised to 50%.

1.2 <u>ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF</u>: During the course of deliberation the committee minutely discussed about the following programmes and activities:

a. Training Programme:

- One Year Artisans Certificate course training through 102 Nos. Handloom Training Centre (HTC) for 1640 seat capacity of artisan per year.
- One year Certificate course training for passed out students of HTC through 4 nos. Handloom Training Institute (HTI) having capacity of 97 seats.

b. Production of Handloom Fabrics:

- Production of handloom Fabric through 98 nos. of Weavers Extension
 Service Unit engaging weavers on weaving charge basis on production of
 Handloom fabrics.
- For in house production of Handloom Fabrics in 20 nos. Handloom Production Centre (HPC) (per centre 10-20 looms available) under technical supervision of Departmental technical staff.

c. Research and Development:

- Handloom Research & Designing Centre (HRDC):
- Development of Design, weaving, dyeing etc. With CATD and supply the same to weavers.
- Preservation and documentation of ethnic designs of the State.
- Popularisation of use of herbal Dyes in commercial basis.

d. Publicity & Exhibition:

- <u>Publicity:</u> Printing of pamphlets, brochures, booklet etc. display of hoarding, preparation of documentary cinema, slides etc.
- Exhibition: By organizing marketing promotion event like Handloom Expo, Exhibition etc. within the State and other Metro Cities in the Country.
- Production of Gamocha: The Department has taken steps to produce quality Assamese Gamocha to prevent comment of inferior quality Power loom made Gamocha from outside the State. During 2016-2017, more than 70,000 pieces of Gamocha has been produced through 98 Nos. Of WESU under the Department. During 2017-18, Target has been fixed to produce more than one lakhs of Gamocha and make them available during Rangali Bihu for sale organising Gamocha Mela in different District. During the current financial year, all the Dist./Sub-Divisional Officers under the Directorate has been directed to produced maximum nos. of

Gamochas engaging weavers under WESU, PWCS, SHGs etc. to meet the local demand during Bohag Bihu in the State.

Department has started a scheme 'Setting up of Yarn Bank' since the financial year 2013-14. Undre the scheme till date 33 nos. of Yarn Bank already been constructed and different District/Sub-Divisions Head Quarter including some weavers concentrated areas. The project cost for setting up of Yarn Bank is Rs. 45 lakhs and till date Rs. 14.85 Crores have already been expended for construction of 33 nos. of Yarn Bank at the places shown below: 1) Dhemaji, 2) North Lakhimpur, 3) Tinsukia, 4) Dibrugarh, 5) Silchar, 6) Goalpara, 7) Jorhat, 8) Nagaon, 9) Sivasagar, 10) Barpeta, 11) Dhubri, 12) Morigaon, 13) Darrang 14) Abhayapuri 15) Nalbari, 16) Karimganj 17) Golaghat 18) Sonitpur 19) Majuli 20) Hailakandi 21) Kamrup (M) 22) Kachua 23) Biswanath Chariali 24) Hojai 25) Charaideo 26) (Golokgonj) Agomoni 27) Rangia 28) Jonai 29) Sadiya 30) Gohpur 31) Bizni 32) Nazira 33) Dudhnoi. With the help of these yarn bank 1,23,604 nos. of Yarn Passbook have been issued.

During the financial year 2021-22 provision for setting up of Yarn Bank an amount of Rs. 645.00 lakhs has been provisioned.

- Setting up of Integrated Handloom Park at Kaziranga: It is proposed to establish an integrated Handloom Park at Kaziranga for showcasing and Marketing of exclusive handloom Product to the National and International visitor visited Kaziranga National Park with an approx project cost of Rs. 61.00 Crore. To start with the project an amount of Rs. 300.00 lakhs has been provisioned in the current financial year 2021-22.
- Handloom Model Village: Along with the Ongoing Model village at Majuli and Moran (Dibrugarh) it is proposed to establish new Handloom Model Village in BTR Area. It is proposed for budgetary provision of Rs. 475.75 lakhs during the current financial year 2021-22.
- Scheme under Schedule Caste Component Plan: For exclusive development of schedule caste Weavers of the State for their socio economic development, a budgetary provision of Rs.60.00 lakhs has been made during the current financial year 2021-22.

• Economic Upliftment of Weavers: 2000 nos. of weavers got benefitted by providing skill up-gradation training, improved looms and raw materials with a project cost of Rs. 250 lakh during 2018-19. Further, Rs. 525.00 lakh was spent for 2800 nos. of weavers during 2019-20. In the year 202-21, Rs. 237.50 lakhs was provisioned and sanctioned but ceiling was not received.

During the financial year 2021-22, Rs. 600 lakhs has been provisioned for the scheme.

benefitted by providing skill upgradation training, improved looms, designs inputs, raw materials and marketing linkages with a project cost of Rs. 400.00 lakh during 2018-19 and Rs. 200.00 lakh was sanctioned and utilized during the year 2019-20. In the year 2020-21 an amount of Rs. 142.50 lakhs was sanctioned but ceiling was not received.

During the year 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 750.00 lakhs has been provisioned for the scheme.

• Income Generation Intervention of Weavers: New improved Fly-Shuttle Frame with working Capital was provided to 5133 nos. of weavers to empower themselves economically through handloom weaving and Rs. 1154.925 lakh was sanctioned and utilized during the year 2019-20. In the year 2020-21 an amount of Rs. 1425.00 lakhs was provisioned and ceiling of Rs. 128.32 lakh was received and utilised.

During the year 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 1500.00 lakhs has been provisioned for the scheme.

1.3 A BRIEF NOTE ABOUT THE DIRECTORATE OF HANDLOOM & TEXTILES, ASSAM.

The Directorate of Handloom & Textiles has been implementing, various schemes for the promotion and development of the handloom sector and has been providing assistance to the handloom weavers, both within and outside the Cooperative fold ever since its inception in the year 1983. As a result, infrastructure for both quantitative and qualitative improvement in production has been achieved considerably in the State. Some of the major works of the department are (a) Technology up-gradation with improved handlooms and provision for easy access to raw material (b) Production of Handloom fabrics in the sector at reasonable consumer price (c) Providing Marketing Assistance (d) Social Sector Welfare schemes which also contribute to productivity, (e)Training & Education for Skill Upgradation of the Weavers (f) Research & Development in Textile designing & Natural Dyeing and their documentation (g) Publicity of Various schemes and Development works undertaken by the Deptt. for public domain (h) Holding of Exhibition/Expos for marketing promotion of Handloom Fabrics and to provide a platform to sell the Handloom fabrics produced by the weavers in the State (i) Cluster based Handloom Development Project (j) Establishment of Handloom model village for overall development of weavers in integrated manner and (k) To make available of handloom made Gamocha into the market of the State and thereby to prevent flow of powerloom made cheaper Gamocha from outside the State, this Directorate has given priority to produce maximum nos. of Gamocha through Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies, Weavers Self Help Group, Weavers Extension Service Units and through different schemes. (1) Enforcement of "The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. m) Organization and administration of Handloom Co-Operative Societies Act, 2007", (n) Working Capital Assistance to Primary Weavers Cooperative Society, etc.

1.4 New Scheme:

- Procurement of Gamocha, Arnai etc. from indigenous weavers of Assam: To empower the indigenous weavers community of the State economically through production and selling of Gamocha, Arnai etc. the Govt. is proposed to procure such handloom products from the indigenous weavers and sale through branches of ARTFED and AGMC etc. During the financial year an amount of Rs. 100.00 Crores has been provisioned to implement the scheme.
- Handloom Model Village: Along with the Ongoing Model village at Majuli and Moran (Dibrugarh) it is proposed to establish new Handloom Model Village in BTR Area. It is proposed for budgetary provision of Rs. 475.75 lakhs during the current financial year 2021-22.

- Scheme under Schedule Caste Component Plan: For exclusive development of schedule caste Weavers of the State for their socio economic development, a budgetary provision of Rs.60.00 lakhs has been made during the current financial year 2021-22.
- Setting up of Integrated Handloom Park at Kaziranga: It is proposed to establish an integrated Handloom Park at Kaziranga for showcasing and Marketing of exclusive handloom Product to the National and International visitor visited Kaziranga National Park with an approx project cost of Rs. 61.00 Crore. To start with the project an amount of Rs. 300.00 lakhs has been provisioned in the current financial year 2021-22.

In respect of Grant No. 59

SERICULTURE (Sector)

INTRODUCTION

1.5 Before presenting the preliminary status under Grant No. 59 relating to Sericulture Department it is felt to write few lines on the present scenario of Sericulture in Assam. It is traditional agro-based cottage industry, practiced in Assam from time immemorial and has witnessed a drastic change over the recent years with the introduction of fresh inputs garnered from results derived from intensive biotechnological lab analysis and research.

This labour-intensive and agro based cottage industry continues to provide gainful employment to around 3.10 lakh families in rural and semi-urban areas of Assam, of whom a sizeable number belong to the economically weaker tribal section of the society and women. It has proved itself to be a sustainable farm-based economic enterprise positively favouring the rural poor in the un-organized sector because of its relatively low requirement of fixed capital and higher returns on investment.

Assam a natural home to the rearing of Silk Worm of Muga, Eri & Mulberry Silk and Oak Tasar in Hill District as well as the plantations on which they feed upon. Assam accounts for highest production of Non-Mulberry silk viz, Muga and Eri in the country. Assam enjoys world monopoly in the production of Muga, the "Golden Silk". In the year 2020-21, Assam has produced 4002.44 M.T. of raw silk in state which has been considered a remarkable achievement in the country. Sericulture Department has 336 No. of Farms & Centres covering around 3687.93 hect. of land, 3 Nos. of Cocoon Bank, 1 No. of Training Institute (Sericulture Training Institute, Titabar), 1 no. of Research Institute, 2 Nos. of Technical Information Centre, etc.

Directorate of Sericulture, Assam under the Administrative control of Handloom Textile & Sericulture Department, Government of Assam was established in the year of 1958 with a different nomenclature as Directorate of Weaving & Sericulture, Assam till July 1983. In the month of July, 1983 this Directorate was separated as the Directorate of Sericulture, Assam bifurcating the Weaving as a new Directorate known as Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Assam. Since separation of the Directorate of Sericulture, it has been performing as a nodal Department for all activities relating to Silk & Silk production in the State. The Headquarter of the Directorate of Sericulture, Assam is located at Khanapara just 5 KM away from Dispur, the Capital of Assam. This Directorate is headed by a Senior State Government Officer borne from the Assam Civil Service Senior Grade. To control the entire Sericulture mechanism in the State, the Govt. of Assam has created many offices in General Areas and Sixth Schedule areas as well.

However, the Sericulture Offices, Farms, Centres, Units, Projects etc. under Sixth Scheduled Areas viz., Karbi-Anglong District Autonomous Council covering entire Karbi-Anglong & Karbi West District; Dima-Hasao District Autonomous Council covering the entire Dima Hasao District and Bodoland Territorial Council covering four districts i.e. Kokrajhar, Chirang, baksa and Udalguri have now been transferred to the Council's jurisdiction, hence the activities of this Directorate is limited to General Areas except these Sixth Scheduled Council Areas.

1.6 ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF:

Department of Sericulture, Assam receives fund mainly under the Grant No. 59 for implementation of the following activities/schemes/projects for overall development of Sericulture in Assam. The Directorate of Sericulture, Assam prepares the detailed plans against the fund allocated by the Finance Department under Grant No. 59.

- Strengthening of Govt. Sericulture Farms, Centres & VGRs by maintaining of existing plantations, technical buildings, staff quarters, boundary wall, cold storage, providing revolving funds to Silk Worm Seed Production Farms.
- Setting up of Nursery & Extension of Plantation.
- Development of Irrigation System by installing Deep Tube Well in Govt.
 Farms/Centres.
- Support to Private Rearers & Entrepreneurs.
- Development of Cocoon Marketing System.
- Impart Training for Skill Development of Rearers, Spinners & Reelers
- Organization of Workshop, Exhibition & Mela to promote Silk Industry.
- Providing Award to Top Seri Performers.
- Organization Awareness Programme.
- Distribution of Quality Silk Worm Seeds to Private Rearers.

1.7 BRIEF NOTE ON SERICULTURE

The fund allocated for implementation of different schemes for overall development of Sericulture in Assam mainly comes from the Budget Grant No. 59 hence it is the major fund flowing source of Sericulture Department. The Department of Sericulture prepares plans like maintenance of Govt. Farms & Centres, providing Revolving Fund for procurement Seed Cocoon & Reeling Cocoon, support to Private Seri Farmers & Entrepreneurs, Organization of different exhibitions, Exposure Programme. Training Workshop cum Motivation Camp, special support to women Seri Farmers, divyang seri farmers etc. on the allocation made under Grant No.59.

1.8 PROPOSAL FOR NEW SCHEMES DURING 2021-22.

After the budget review meeting held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam and Hon'ble Finance Minister, two major schemes were submitted namely-

- (A) Establishment of "Golden Silk Park at Muga Seed Farm, Khanapara" with a Project Cost of Rs. 18320.00 lakhs was placed which is likely to be approved. The objective of the Scheme is to preserve and attract the tourists of the Nation as well as abroad showcase to the trend and tradition of the Golden Muga Silk of Assam.
- (B) "Up-keeping of Eri, Muga and Mulberry farms" in general areas with Project Cost of Rs. 2809.15043 lakhs was placed which is likely to be approved. The objective of the Scheme is to preserve and increase of production and productivity of Silk commodities in the State.

REPORT

CHAPTER-II

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the financial year 2022 2023 on 16th March,2022, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Department held its meeting 23-03-22 to discuss in respect of Grant No. 59 relating to the Handloom, Textile & Sericulture Department.

At the same time the Committee considered the Action Taken report on the recommendations made in its Twenty third Report in the year 2021-22 and in addition to the scrutinizing of the budget provision.

Budget provisions under Grant no 59 relating to the Handloom, Textile & Sericulture Department, 2022-23 are as follows:

VOTED CHARGED	39751.84 0.00	CAPITAL 2494.48 0.00	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs) 42246.32 0.00		
General Areas					
	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)		
VOTED	39294.46	2494.48	41788.94		
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council					
	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)		
VOTED	205.93	0.00	205.93		
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00		
North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council					
	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)		
VOTED	70.45	0.00	70.45		
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00		

Bodoland Territorial Council

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	181.00	0.00	181.00
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

Under the following heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below: (Rs. in lakhs)

		Grand Total -	41788.94
•	4851	Capital outlay on Village and small Industries	2494.48
•	2851	Village and Small Industries	39294.46

The amount so allocated is presented before the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue expenditure.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GRANT NO.59

HANDLOOM, TEXTILE & SERICULTURE

The Committee after holding a threadbare discussion and on close scrutiny of the Report related to Grant No.59, Handloom, Textile and Sericulture and the evidences tendered by the Departmental representatives, made the following observations and recommendations.

 During the course of discussion, the Committee observed that the Directorate of Handloom & Textiles are running 33 Nos. of Cotton Yarn Banks providing subsidy of 30%-50% at Mill Gate Price benefiting more than 1.40 lakh of weavers of the state. But, regular supply of yarn to the Yarn Banks are hampered due to paucity of fund.

The Committee, therefore recommended to strengthen the Yarn Banks and to ensure regular supply of yarn to all Yarn Banks as per demand by allocating adequate fund to run the Yarn Banks through SD proposal if required.

2. The Committee observed that 59 Nos. of Block Level Cluster under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) were sanctioned by Central Govt. and are under implementation. This programme has been renamed as Cluster Development Programme (CDP) recently by the Central Govt. Since, Assam has the highest numbers of weavers in the country, more funds to be sanctioned to Assam.

The Committee therefore, recommended the Department to request the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, GOI to sanction more funds to the state under various schemes/projects for the benefits of large numbers of weavers of the state.

3. The Committee was informed during its sitting that many Handloom Training Centres and Weaver's Extension Service Centres across the state are in dilapidated condition including the ones in Rani, Kacharipathar and Bokalanda.

The Committee therefore recommended the concerned Department to take necessary steps urgently to manage all the centers across the state properly and make them fully functional as soon as possible.

4. During the course of deliberation the Committee was informed that 2 No.Kaki Thaisupar Boakata Samobay Samity is a society which is run by 258 weavers but the centre has no boundary wall. If a boundary wall is constructed covering the entire land of the society measuring 1Bigha and 1 katha then employment generation would be increased by hundreds of local women and also the land belonging to society will stay encroachment free for the future.

The Committee recommended the concerned Department to take necessary steps to provide a boundary wall to aforesaid society.

SERICULTURE

1. The Committee in its sitting observed that some of the Government Sericulture Farms are not in good condition due to lack of proper infrastructure and Management, the production capacity of the farms are decreasing.

The Committee recommended for re-structuring by grading the farm as per production capacity and infrastructure pattern. For development/maintenance, prioritization should be done under the project "Up Keeping of Government Farms and Centres" in the state.

The Committee also recommended to give special attention for development of the 2 (two) nos farms –

- (i) Eri Concentration Centre, Kaki, G.P. Jhaisapar under Hojai district.
- ii) Mulberry farm Pilapool under Silchar district.
- 2. During the course of discussion Committee observed that due to climatic change and pollution, Muga production is somewhat affected in some places of the state.

The committee recommended to identify particular zone congenial for Muga rearing like Govt. farms located at rural, non pollutant areas and give importance so that production can be continued and increased.

3. During the course of deliberation, the Committee took note about the return of 60 (sixty) crores allocated to Assam silk Outreach Mission, out of 100 crores to the Govt. of Assam, Finance Department on 2021-2022.

The Committee recommended that the concerned department should communicate to acquiring those 60 crores back to accomplish new projects of Muga Silk industry and other targets.

4. The Committeee was informed during the course of deliberation that many plots belonging to Sericulture Department under the Govt of Assam have no boundary walls. The Committee was also informed that there is a huge plot at Thaisupur G.P. measuring 52 bighas of land and that belongs to Eri Samahar under Sericulture Department in Lumding also has no boundary wall. And hence there is a huge possibility of encroachment.

Hence, the Committee recommended the concerned Department to take necessary steps to build boundary walls in all the plots belonging to Sericulture Department under the Govt of Assam on urgent basis to keep the land encroachment free.

5. During the course of discussion the Committee felt the need of a Sericulture College in the state.

Hence, the Committee directed the concerned Department to prepare and send a proposal to the Government of Assam and take necessary steps to open the college.

After making a detailed scrutiny of the DEMANDS FOR GRANTS of the Department of Handloom, Textiles and Sericulture and assessing the progress that the demands for grants for Rs. 41788.94 lakhs as sought by the Department of Handloom, Textiles and Sericulture for the year 2022-23 under Grant No.59 be approved by the august House.

Action Taken Report on the recommendation should be submitted to the Committee within 90 (ninety days) from the presentation of the report to the House.

