TEA BOARD INDIA
(Under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Deptt. of Commerce, Government of India)
14, B. T. M. SARANI (Brabourne Road), Kolkata 700 001, West Bengal
P.O. Box No.: 2172 :: STD Code : 033
Tel. No.: 2235-1311

Ref.No. 25(1)/Sectt.2017/9

Date: 31st January, 2018

CIRCULAR

In terms of MOC&I letter No. A-42011/34/2017-E-3-DoC dated 29th January 2018 from Sri R.K. Ojha, Under Secretary, with D.O. No.22/4/2016-DCH/Estt.II dated 28th December 2017 from Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Textiles & Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India, (copies enclosed) for publicising the Scheme for Open Schooling and Distance Learning for Handicraft Artisans, Handloom Weavers and their Children.

All the Heads of Regional/Sub-Regional Offices of requested to kindly arrange to bring the content of this Scheme to different stakeholders of the tea industry so that the same may be utilized by the target groups.

A feedback may be provided to this office for onward transmission to Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

(S. Soundararajan)
Secretary

Distribution.
1. To ED-Guwahati/Coonoor.
2. To all HODs
3. To all Regional/Sub-Regional Offices.
4. Guard File.
5. IT Cell – With the request to upload in the Board’s website.

Copy for kind information to-
Special Officer, Tea Board, New Delhi via email id dakteaboard@gmail.com
for Dy.Chairman’s kind information
To

1) DG, DGFT, DG, DGAD, DG, DGCI&S.

2) DCs/JDCs of Cochin SEZ, Madras SEZ, KASEZ, VSEZ, FALTA SEZ, SEEPZ SEZ, Indore SEZ, Noida SEZ.

3) Chairpersons/ Directors of Coffee Board, Tea Board, Spices Board, Rubber Board, Tobacco Board, IIP, MPEDA, APEDA, IIFT (New Delhi), EIC of India.

4) CMDs of STC Ltd., MMTC Ltd., ITPO, PEC Ltd., ECGC Ltd.

Subject: Scheme for Open Schooling and Distance Learning for Handicraft Artisans, Handloom Weavers and their Children.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward a copy of D.O no. 22/4/2016-DCH/Estt.II dated 28.12.2017 received from Hon’ble Minister of Textiles and Information and Broadcasting and to say that a new scheme for empowering weavers and artisans has been launched wherein Open Schooling and Distance learning facilities sponsored by National Institute of open Schooling (NIOS) and Indira Gandhi National University (IGNOU) have been introduced for Handicraft Artisans, Handloom Weavers and their Children. Also, Ministry of Textiles is providing reimbursement to 75% of the fee for SC, ST, BPL and women.

2. It is requested that the above scheme may be publicised on a large scale so that the target groups may take advantage of the same. In case of any assistance, officials mentioned in the enclosed letter may be contacted.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,

(R.K. Ohja)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
E-mail: moc_est3@nic.in
Aadarniya Suresh Prabhu ji,

Handlooms and Handicrafts play a significant role in the nation’s economy besides being one of the major employment sectors. More than 43 lakh weavers and allied workers are engaged in the handloom sector; and more than 68 lakh artisans are associated with the handicrafts sector. Third handloom census conducted in 2009-10 reveals that education level of 83% adult handloom workers is below High School/Secondary.

To empower the weavers and artisans and to enable the children of weavers/artisans families in career advancement, Development Commissioner for Handlooms and Development Commissioner for Handicrafts under Ministry of Textiles have entered into separate Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of open schooling (NIOS) for providing education to the handloom weavers, handicraft artisans and their children through open schooling and distance learning. Ministry of Textiles is providing reimbursement of 75% of the fee towards admission in courses offered by NIOS/IGNOU in case of SC, ST, BPL and women learners of these people.

Ministry of Textiles is giving publicity about these courses through its field offices. NIOS and IGNOU are also popularizing these courses in their publicity literature and other media. Enrollment to these courses was also arranged in association with NIOS/IGNOU during the Hastakala Sahyog Shivrirs which were organized in 394 handloom/handicraft clusters between 7th to 17th October, 2017.

Though this Ministry is putting its best efforts in coordination with NIOS/IGNOU to popularize these learning opportunities, response from the weavers/artisans is far from satisfactory. With a view to give proper push to this welfare scheme, I solicit your cooperation in popularizing the scheme amongst the target groups during the course of your public interactions.

For any assistance / information / clarification, you may please contact Dr. Praveen Chauhan, Academic Officer (Home Science), Vocational Department, NIOS (Phone No. 0120-4089852, e-mail ID: aohomesec@nios.ac.in) for NIOS courses; Dr. P. Tripathi, Deputy Director, Vice-Chancellor Office & Nodal Officer, IGNOU, New Delhi (Phone No: 011-29571804, e-mail ID: purnendu.tripathi@ignou.ac.in) for IGNOU courses; and Shri Rajesh Kumar Sahu, ADC(Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles (Phone No: 011-23061865, e-mail ID: rajesh.sahu@nic.in).

Yours Sincerely,

Shri Suresh Prabhu,
12, Akbar Road,
New Delhi.