

9. ENTERPRISES OF THE MINISTRY

North East Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi), GUWAHATI

9.1 NEDFi, a financial institution, whose main objectives include providing credit and other facilities for promotion, expansion and modernization of industrial enterprises and infrastructure projects in the North Eastern Region of India has been playing an active role in promoting economic development of the Region.

Performance

9.2 NEDFi's operational performance has been showing a healthy picture in the current year 2007-08. Upto 23rd November, 2007 sanction & disbursement figure mounted up to Rs. 197.25 crore and Rs. 51.58 crore respectively. During this period, there has been a growth of 42% in the sanctioned amount over the last year's total sanction. NEDFi has sanctioned 140 projects in sectors like cement, power generation, hotels & tourism, health care, agriculture, micro enterprises etc. In funding these sectors, NEDFi helped in creating employment for 1880 people. Under Women Entrepreneurs Development Scheme (WEDS) financial assistance of Rs. 1.55 crore is provided to women entrepreneurs for different income generating activities of the north eastern regions. Likewise, Rs. 1.50 crore is sanctioned to NGOs for encouraging micro enterprises under Micro Finance Scheme.

9.3 Some recent initiatives

- * Conducted Techno Economic feasibility studies for identifying viable projects in NE Region. Till now 55 studies have been completed.
- * Set up NEDFi Haat a marketing platform for the artisans of North East to sale and display their products in a permanent stall. The Haat houses 26 permanent stalls with 1800 sq. ft. of open space.
- * North East Data Bank Quarterly: A quarterly

publication of NEDFi covering the economic issues related to the North East is brought out.

- * In order to boost the SME sector in the North Eastern Region, Business Facilitation Program was conducted in all the North Eastern States targeting first generation entrepreneurs including women entrepreneurs.
- * Development initiatives are being taken for Muga Pilot Project, Bamboo flattening project and innovative products and appropriate technology.
- * Under the project of Aggressive International Marketing Project, supported by DONER, training included the design inputs provided by a reputed Philipino Designer. In addition, 12 handloom and handicraft units were supported for participation of in international fairs in Brazil, UK and Hong Kong in association with EPCH (Export Promotional Council for Handicrafts).
- * Under NEDFi's design & skill upgradation scheme, 30 training programs, involving 1100 members of local youth and artisans, have been arranged.
- * The Corporation disburses Central Capital Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy and Working Capital Interest Subsidy provided to the NE States under the NEIIPP, 2007. Cumulative disbursement under these schemes as on 31st March, 2007 stood at Rs.458.21 crore.
- * NEDFi is in advanced talks with Quipo Infrastructure Equipment Ltd. for setting up an Equipment Bank for the North East to facilitate road construction work in the NER.

NORTH EASTERN HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

9.4 The objective of the corporation is to develop and

promote the handicrafts and handlooms of the North Eastern region through design development, technology up gradation, training and capacity building of artisans and weavers, R&D and marketing of the finished handicrafts and handlooms products. The NEHHDC is currently organizing 70 marketing related events in the country for the promotion of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms products.

NEHHDC is also actively engaged in the training and capacity building programmes for the artisans and weavers, design and technical development programmes, creation of permanent facilities like the Common Facility centers for artisans etc in the region.

North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd.

9.5 The Corporation has mainly been operating in two

areas: Food processing and Marketing. The Corporation had set up a Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant and a Cashew Processing Plant in Tripura and an integrated Ginger Processing Plant at Byrnihat, Meghalaya. Another unit for Cashew Processing is planned to be established in Mankachar in Assam. The Corporation has been providing marketing support for important agricultural inputs and commodities. Since this region's food industry is dominated by very small units with almost zero quality standards and poor marketing network, NERAMAC's endeavor in this sector is prominent. The Corporation has conducted 3 Entrepreneurship Development Programme on fruit processing with financial support of DoNER. Besides, 10 Awareness Programs were also held during the year.