

F. No. K-12012/4/12/2016-17/R&D/Pt.  
Government of India  
Ministry of Textiles  
Office of the Development Commissioner [Handicrafts]

West Block No. 7,  
R. K. Puram, Sector-11,  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

To

The Head of Office,  
All Regional Offices, RDTDC,  
HM&SEC/CWTSC

**Subject : Setting up of GI Help Desk in MH&SEC, CWTSC, RDTDC across  
the country – reg.**

Sir/ Madam,

As you are aware, the Geographical Indications of Goods is an indication or appellation of origin used to identify agricultural, natural or manufactured goods originating in a definite territory. Goods originating should have a special quality or characteristics or reputation based upon the climatic or production characteristics unique to the geographical location.

2. In India, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 came in to force w.e.f. September, 2003. Handicrafts are covered under section 2(f) of the Act which states that "goods" means any agricultural, natural or manufactured goods or any goods of handicraft (& handlooms) or of industry and includes food stuff. Handicrafts Artisans can be registered as "authorized users" for the registered Geographical indications as provided under section 7(3) read with section 17 of the Act. The Act provides that any person claiming to be the producer of goods in respect of which a Geographical Indication has been registered under section 6 may apply in writing to the registrar in the prescribed manner for registering him as an authorised user of such Geographical Indication.
3. A Geographical Indication right enables those who have the right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards. Therefore, GI registered stakeholders can capitalize on the premium price associated with these premium products in national and international market. It also provides assurance to the customers about genuineness of the product.
4. Ministry of Textiles, Government of India provides financial assistance to register handicrafts products under the GI Act, 1999. So far, 116 handicrafts products are registered under the GI Act in India. Recently, Ministry of Textiles has organised a national level workshop on GI in New Delhi, for the benefit of all stakeholders, on 05<sup>th</sup>

& 06<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 including an exhibition exclusively for GI products for creating awareness and promotion of GI products.

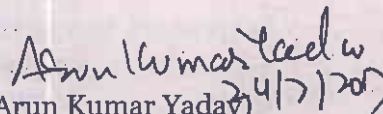
5. To provide assistance to the Handicraft Artisans and other stakeholders on GI related issues, the competent authority has decided that:

- a) A GI Help Desk may be set up in all the HM&SECs, CWTSCs, RDTDCs to address the issues related to the GI Act.
- b) The Head of Office of the HM&SECs, CWTSCs, RDTDCs will be the nodal officer for the purpose.
- c) In each HM&SECs, CWTSCs, RDTDCs, a sign board will be displayed – (i) at the front office and (ii) nearby to the Help Desk.
- d) Publicity regarding GI Helpdesk may be done in handicrafts clusters/ artisans concentrated areas.
- e) An Advocate having expertise in GI will be identified by Head of Office of the concerned HM&SECs, CWTSCs, RDTDCs to give an advice on legal issues to the weavers.

6. All HM&SECs, CWTSCs, RDTDCs will ensure that the Help Desk is set up by 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 and compliance report sent to this office by 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Arun Kumar Yadav) 24/7/2017  
Director [Handicrafts]