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NOTIFICATION

No. B. 20011/1/2019-AC, the 9th September, 2019. In the interest of the general public, the Governor of Mizoram is pleased to notify the following, benchmarks of the Mizo Puan (Puanchei, Tawlhlohpuan, Pawndum, Ngotekherh and Hmaram) for the purpose of preservation and protection:

BENCHMARKS FOR MIZO PUAN (PUANCHEI, TAWLHLOHPUAN, PAWNDUM, NGOTEKHERH AND HMARAM)

1. Puanchei

- 1) In the loom, the ground fabric of Puanchei should be warp-faced plain weaved with at least 150 TC (thread count), using the same density of weft yarns same as that of the warp yarns.
- 2) The weaving quality of Puanchei must be finer than other Mizo Puan such that the appearance of the design in inner and outer side of the Puan is almost indistinguishable.
- 3) The 'Hruih (Thai Hruih)/Band' designs in Puanchei must not have any wrinkle or crease. The Hruih should be highly compact and dense such that not even a streak of the warp of color should be visible.
- 4) Puanchei is unique and its design and the following motifs are incorporated :-
 - a. Disul (with not less than 12 pattern heddle handpicked)
 - b. Fanghmamu / Halkha (A continuous one faced pattern)
 - c. Hmaizah (with not less than 12 pattern heddle handpicked)
 - d. Hruih (Two weft-wise hand created weft rib structure)
 - e. Kherh.
 - f. Lenbuangthuam (of different shape)
 - g. Sakeizangzia
- 5) Other designs/motifs are not incorporated in Puanchei. The above mentioned designs should also be properly incorporated where required and without any modifications.
- 6) In the loom, Puanchei must be woven in three pieces lengthwise so that matching color of warp and weft are used and the color of the warp appears in its original form. The middle piece known as Laisen is the smallest while the outer two pieces are bigger and similar. Red color yarns are used at the Laisen and white at the sides. The three pieces must then be sewn together with high precision so that the motifs and designs are aligned properly. In machine/handloom, Puanchei is woven as a single piece.

- 7) The central part of Puanchei known as Laisen has three vertical white bands. In the middle white band fanghmamu also known as Halkha (a discontinuous one faced pattern) should be handpicked without any space or break in difference color throughout the length of the puan.
On the vertical two sides white bands Disul of not less than 12 patterns heddle should be handpicked in batches of different color.
- 8) In the case of Puanchei woven on looms other than loin looms Disul at the two vertical white at the side and Hmaizah at the centre may be handpicked but they should be of not less than 12 pattern heddle.
- 9) Two prominent black Hruih of about 2.5-2.8" wide, breadthwise must be present which are bordered by Kherh. These divide the Puan into three parts. The middle part is the smallest (about 15.5") and contains lesser or no motif except at the Laisen.
- 10) The outer two parts on either side of the middle part must be identical (about 21.7") and should contain the rich intricate motifs. The design on both the edges must have design/motifs in two blocks - Major and Minor block. The major block should have three main columns measuring about 9". The middle column should contain Sakeizangzia with Lenbuangthuam handpicked diagonally on either side. The Sakeizangzia is a motif in Hruih mainly of three colors - yellow, green and pink running in an alternate fashion in V shape. Two diamonds shaped Lenbuangthuam must be present on either side of the Sakeizangzia with diagonal Lenbuangthuam. Between each diamond shape 'Lenbuangthuam; Lenbuangthuam in the shape of 'X' sometimes known as Herhsawp are handpicked. Only blue and green are used in alternate manner in Herhsawp while yellow pick and red are used at the diamond shape Lenbuangthuam. The diamond shapes may be of three colors-yellow, pink and red, whilst the Herhsawp must be blue and green only.

The minor block should contain two similar columns having half Lenbuangthuam each. In some cases, the middle column may contain Sakeizangzia. The colors and specifications, of the diagonal Lenbuangthuam are as described in the Major block.

- 11) Only seven color combinations are used in Puanchei which are red, green, blue, pink, yellow, black and white.
- 12) Puanchei must have fringes on both edges breadthwise of about to 1".
- 13) No other motifs other than cited in the specifications should be incorporated in the designs of Puanchei.

II. Tawlhlohpuan

- 1) The ground fabric of Tawlhlohpuan must be jet black.
- 2) The design in Tawlhlohpuan must contain several batches of Hruih (Thai hruih) of five blocks, in both the front sides and middle of the puan.
- 3) The Hruih in Tawlhlohpuan must be compact and smooth, with no visible background color (warp color) in it.
- 4) Tawlhlohpuan must contain groups of red, white and yellow Hruih of varying widths, with yellow being the thinnest and on the border of the small red Hruih only.
- 5) Tawlhlohpuan designs consists of groups of red and white stripes of Hruih (two waft wise band created with weft run structure) in a total of five batch intervals. The first and fifth batches have identical design; the second and fourth batches are also identical; the third (middlemost) batch is different.
- 6) The stripes on the first and fifth batches of the Puan consist of three dominant stripes where the innermost lane is white that are flanked by two red stripes. The three dominant stripes are of about 10mm wide each. On either side of these three dominant stripes are two and red stripes of around 3mm each which are bordered with a thin yellow line (making a total of four 3mm red stripes with yellow border).

- 7) The stripes on the second and fourth batches of the Puan consist of three dominant stripes where the innermost lane is white that are flanked by two red stripes. The three dominant stripes are of about 10mm wide each. On either side of these three dominant stripes are three red stripes of around 3mm each. Out of the three red stripes, the middle small red stripes are bordered in yellow (making a total of six 3mm red stripes with white or yellow border).
- 8) The stripes on the third (middlemost stripe) batch of the Puan consist of five dominant stripes in red and white flanked by three smaller red stripes. The five dominant stripes are of about mm wide each, in which the red stripe is centrally placed in between two white stripes. On either side of these two white stripes are red stripes. The smaller red stripes flanking the dominant five stripes are of about 3mm each. Out of the three red stripes, the middle small red stripe is bordered with a white thin line whereas the outer two red stripes are bordered in yellow (making a total of six 3mm red stripes with white or yellow border).

III. Pawndum

- 1) The weaving quality must be very fine such that the appearance of inner and outer side is almost indistinguishable.
- 2) In the loom, Pawndum must always be woven in two pieces lengthwise.
- 3) The two pieces of the cloth woven in loom must be identical.
- 4) Pawndum produced in loom must be sewn together using Zungthui style.
- 5) The size of the Puan should be: breadth - 45" (weft) approx., and length - 63" (warp) approx.
- 6) Pawndum contains six color combinations such as red, green, blue, pink, yellow and black.
- 7) In Pawndum, the red and black colors must be most prominent. No other color must be prominent than these two colors.
- 8) Lesser color combinations if used must contain red and black colors as the most prominent.
- 9) No other color other than stated in SI. 6 above must be included in Pawndum.
- 10) Pawndum must always have fringes on both edges breadthwise of length 0.5" to 1".
- 11) Pawndum must contain a 'kut hruih' design of red and black color about an inch from the fringes, throughout the breadth of the puan on both sides.
- 12) No other motifs or stripes other than cited in the specifications should be incorporated in the design of Pawndum.
- 13) Pawndum produced in machines such as fly shuttle loom, etc. should have the same quality as produced from the loom.

IV. Ngotekherh

- 1) The weaving quality of Ngotekherh must be very fine such that the appearance of the design in inner and outer side of the puan is almost indistinguishable.
- 2) The 'Hruih/Band' (Thai hruih) designs in Ngotekherh must not have any wrinkle or crease. The hruih should be highly compact and dense such that not even a streak should be visible anywhere.
- 3) The check-like design in Ngotekherh must be uniform and should measure between 1 to 1.5 inches such that each check-like design must be a perfect square or close to it.
- 4) In the loom, Ngotekherh must be woven in two pieces lengthwise that are sewn together using Zungthui style.
- 5) Ngotekherh should always have fringes on both edges lengthwise of about to 1".
- 6) The weaving style[^] of Ngotekherh must be in such a way that white weft is delicately hidden under the black warp.
- 7) Absence of any white streak under the black warp will determine the quality of Ngotekherh.
- 8) The base fabric of Ngotekherh should be white with 7"-8" thick black warp borders on each side. These thick borders should have three to six thin white stripes (about quarter of a centimeter each) woven on the inner side of the borders.

- 9) Two distinct 'Hruih' in black must be divides the Ngotekherh into three parts. When wrapping the Ngotekherh around the waist, the two 'Hruih' must lie exactly on both sides of the hip.
- 10) Absence of white streaks on the black Hruih, black border, black stripes and fineness should all be important criteria to assess the quality of Ngotekherh.
- 11) The presence of very fine Kherh on both the outer border of the two major Hruih is an important criterion to assess the quality of Ngotekherh.

V. Hmaram

- 1) The weaving quality of Hmaram must be fine such that the appearance of the design in inner and outer side of the Puan is almost indistinguishable.
- 2) Hmaram is unique and easily distinguished by its smaller size and its design is not found elsewhere. The breadth (weft) of Hmaram is much smaller than other Mizo puan measuring only 18 inches. A single Hmaram consist of only one motif which could be anyone of the following -
 - a. Kawkpuizikzial
 - b. Lenbuangthuam, or
 - c. Disul
- 3) It must be noted, however, that Kawkpuizikzial is the most commonly used motif in Hmaram.
- 4) In the loin loom, Hmaram must be woven in a single piece.
- 5) The ground fabric of Hmaram must be black.
- 6) The pattern motifs in Hmaram must be incorporated as a white stripe of 3" that appears as five prominent bands. Alternating each of the prominent bands must be a fine smaller stripe of 5mm, making it a total of six smaller stripes.
- 7) Only two colors are to be used in Hmaram, i.e., black and white.
- 8) Hmaram do not have fringes in the edges as other Puan. Strong small hand hemming is made at both edges to prevent tear.
- 9) No other motifs other than cited in the specifications should be incorporated in the design of Hmaram.

VI. Mizo Version will follow.

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