

No. HL-134/C&I/2006(I)  
**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES**

Imphal, the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

To

The Registrar of Geographical Indications,  
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India,  
Geographical Indications Registry,  
**Intellectual Property Office Building,**  
G.S.T. Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032 (INDIA).  
**Fax – 044 - 22502090**

Subject: In the matter of GI Application No.371 in respect of Shaphee Lanphee – submission of information/documents/forms for registration under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to your office letter No.GIR/App.No.371/ER/2013/525 dated 23-11-2013 on the above subject, I am to submit herewith the required information/documents/forms and such other issues to be compliance by the State Government along with Amended Form in original in respect of GI Application No.371 – “**SHAPHEE LANPHEE**” for registration under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. It is further to ensure that the Department will submit a report within one year relating to the impact of GI Registration and means of propaganda used for promotion of GI.

You are, therefore, requested to kindly reconsider the amended proposal for registration of GI Application No.371 – “**SHAPHEE LANPHEE**” under the Act, 1999.

Yours faithfully,

Enclosed: Amended Form in original

( **B. John Tlangtinkhuma** )  
Director of Commerce & Industries,  
Manipur  
E –mail: [dcimanipur@gmail.com](mailto:dcimanipur@gmail.com)

Copy to: -

1. The Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi-110 011.
2. The Principal Secretary (Commerce & Industries), Govt. of Manipur.



Amended Form GI – 1 (A) – Shaphee Lanphee

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act 1999  
Application for the registration of a geographical indication in

**Part-A of the Register**  
Section 11 (1), Rule 23 (2)

**Application is hereby made by** Department of Commerce & Industries, Govt. of Manipur for Registration in Part A of the Register of the accompanying Geographical Indications furnishing the following particulars:

- 1. Name of the Applicant:** Department of Commerce & Industries,  
Govt. of Manipur
- 2. Address:** Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur (INDIA),  
PIN 795 004 Phone- 0385 2414200. Mail:  
[dcimanipur@gmail.com](mailto:dcimanipur@gmail.com)
- 3. List of association of persons/  
producers/organization/authority:** Weavers of Shaphee Lanphee represented  
by Government of Manipur
- 4. Type of goods:** Clothing, footwear and headgears falling  
under **Class- 25**.
- 5. Class:** **25 (Clothing)**
- 6. Name of the geographical indication  
[and particulars]:** **SHAPHEE LANPHEE**



**7. Specification:**

- The Shaphee Lanphee is a type of Shawl which is specially made by needle work without frame over the Loin Loom fabric woven by Meitei Women.
- It is worn by the Nagas of Manipur as a special recognition of Honour.
- Shaphee Lanphee have black background and red border fabric decorated with 10 different stylized motifs, namely, i) Shamu (elephant), ii) Shagol (horse), iii) Iroichi (buffalo horn), iv) Nga (fish), v) Numit (sun), vi) Tha (moon), vii) Thawanmichak (star), viii) Phantup (seat), ix) Ta(spear) and x) Wahong (peacock).
- All the stylized motifs are embroidered with needle manually with cotton threads.
- Width :110-132 cm;
- Length :225 – 230 cm length
- Weight: 1854 grams usually

- Type of yarn used: 2/20<sup>S</sup> cotton and 2/34<sup>S</sup> acrylic
- Count of wrap: 2/20<sup>S</sup> cotton
- Count of Weft: 2/20<sup>S</sup> cotton
- Embroidery Yarn: 2/20<sup>S</sup> cotton, mercerized and 2/40<sup>S</sup> acrylic
- Type of Reed and its count: Steel reed of 40<sup>S</sup> ST
- TPI(EPI & PPI): 20-25 picks per 2.54 cm. (per inch)

#### **8. Description of the goods:**

- It is a hand woven fabric and having 10 different highly stylized motifs, such as, i) Iroichi (local name of buffalo horn), ii) Nga (local name of fish), iii) Numit (local name of sun), iv) Phantup (local name of seat), v) Shagol (local name of horse), vi) Shamu (local name of elephant), vii) Ta (local name of spear), viii) Tha (local name of moon), ix) Thawanmichak (local name of star) and x) Wahong (local name of peacock) is the Shaphee Lanphee,
- The fabric is first embroidered with 40 Nos. of Thwanmichak (the Star) in two extreme margins of the fabric,
- Secondly, 20 Nos. of Ta (the Spear) and 10 Nos. of Phantup (the magical seat) in two sides in the second row of the fabric are embroidered and the third row is repeated with another set of 20 Nos. of Thwanmichak (the Star) having 10 Thwanmichak in each side,
- The fourth row is embroidered with 10 Nos. of Iroichi (the buffalo horn) in two sides having 5 Iroichi in each side,
- Fifth row is represented by five motifs, namely, two Numit (two Sun), two Tha (two Moon) and one Shagol (one Horse) in the middle in each side. Therefore, there are 4 Numit, 4 Tha and two Shagol together in the fabric,
- In the middle, there are two Wahong (two Peacocks) in the outer margin and two Nga (two Fishes) and two Shamu (two elephants) in the inner centre.
- The philosophical concept of the different motifs which are needed in the Shaphee Lanphee is that the floral design with the red core is significance the Sun.
- The white patches at the ends are significance of the stars and the other heavenly bodies in the sky. The concept of the moon and the sun are the symbols of mother and father.
- The significances of this cloth of attractive motifs are the representation of the relationship between the celestial bodies and the Meitei King. The celestial bodies like sun, moon, star, etc. are the symbolization of the supreme power of mother and father.
- The motifs of Phantup (magical seat) and the elephant symbolize the royalty. The motifs of spear heads and the fishes are connected with the myth of king Naothingkhong (663-763 A. D.).
- Enclosed as Annexure – I from Page No. 6 to 12.

## 9. Geographical area of production and map:

- Literally, the name of Shaphee is the fabric of animal and Lanphee is the fabric of war.
- Historically and practically, the Shaphee Lanphee is woven and embroidered in the entire Manipur and is practiced in the entire State of Manipur,
- The geographical territory of latitude of 23o.50/ N. to 25o.41/ N and the longitude of 93o.2/E to 94o.47/E.
- It is almost intersected by the 25<sup>th</sup> parallel north latitude and 94o E longitude (Dr. N. Ibobi, Retired Lecturer of DM College). Manipur is bounded in the north by Nagaland, in the east and the south by Burma (Myanmar), in the south-west by Mizoram and in the west by Cachar valley of Assam.

## 10. Proof of origin (Historical records):

- The shawl of Shaphee Lanphee is a special cloth which was used to be presented as rewards/awards by the Meitei Kings to the worthy Naga Chiefs of Manipur.
- A legend has for introducing this type of cloth to be presented by the Meitei Kings to the worthy tribes as one day a man of *Khoisnam lineage* was riding a horse by wearing the said type of cloth *Shaphee Lanphee* and it was seen by the king and the king later on used to be presented as rewards/awards to the worthy Naga Chiefs of Manipur. This tradition was carried on in the future also and as a tradition the weaving of such kind of cloth was the work only for the *Khoisnam* lineage. Because of which, in the text of “Loiyumba Silyen”, King Loiyumba (1074 - 1122 A. D.) assigned the work of weaving the cloth “Shaphee Lanphee” to the *Khoisnam* family. So, it is cleared that this kind of cloth was remained used during the time of Meidingu Loiyumba.
- The manuscript “*Loishang Lingkhatpa*”, the account of the establishment of various administrative departments during the reign of different kings in Manipur, gives valuable information about the first establishment of the “*Phishaba Loishang*”, the Department of weaving during the time of Meidingu Pakhangba. He was the first historical king of Manipur who reigned from 33 to 154 A. D. From that time, the department had its responsibilities for the task of making royal clothes of various designs. The name of the post “*Charei Phishahanba*” was the head of this department. The manuscript “*Ningthouphi Shaba*” gives us the name of royal weavers that “*Laikokshu Charei Phishahanba*” was the head of the department during the time King Khuioi Tompok (154-264). “*Ako Phishahanba*” was the head of the department during the time of King Naophangba (428-518) and “*Roso Phishahanba*” was the head of the department of weaving during the time of Meidingu Loiyumba.

- The text of the manuscript "*Loiyumba Silyen*" gives some names of royal weavers of the time of Meidingu Loiyumba such as Naotam Phishaba, Ngangdi Phishaba, Yangnu Phishaba, Heisu Naha Phishaba, etc.

#### 11. Uniqueness:

- Shaphee Lanphee is a type of Hand-woven Fabric shawl which is specially made by needle work on Loin and Frame Loom.
- Shaphee Lanphee is presented as awards by the Meitei Kings to the worthy tribes of Manipur as a special recognition of honour. It marks as pride and respect to the person who posses it.
- In Shaphee Lanphee the motifs are specially made by needle work without frame by Manipuri in Cotton or sometimes Silk yarns
- The stylized motifs of the Shaphee Lanphee are now popularly used as waist coat with synthetic lining. It is now exported abroad in diversified form as garment.

#### 12. Method of Production: Hand Woven as under:

- A hand weaving of black colour background with red colour border on plain of cotton yarn does not make a Shaphee Lanphee.
- A Shaphee Lanphee is required both the hand weaving and embroidery work with needle.
- Like normal fabric, it is required warp thread, weft thread and embroidery thread.
- **Pre-Loom Processes:** Weaving in Manipur, from early period, used mainly the fibres extracted from "*Lashing*" (Cotton ball) and "*Kabrang*" (Mulberry cocoon) and also extracted from the bark of a kind of tree called "*Santhak*" *Urtica sp.*). The local fibre was spun into thread and dyed locally with plants, bark, leaves, flower, etc available in the State. Therefore, traditional system of spinning and dyeing is required. The yarn is sized with starch of rice and stretched with the help of bamboo rod. It is then wound into bobbin for warping and pirn for picks
- **Denting & Drafting:** After warping, the warp beam is gaited up with the warp beam rest. Generally, the warp thread are drawing through wire heald and passes through the dents of the reed and wound to the cloth beam. Thus, the loom is ready for weaving a simple or plain cloth.
- **Weaving on Loin Loom:** In Loin Loom, no denting is required as no reed is used. However, drafting is required as two half heald is used. The drafting is done during the warping process with two persons, one for drawing boy and another for drafting. After this process, the warp sheet will be hanging downward from a higher wall or stand and strapped the other end of the warp sheet into the loin of the weaver. Thus, the loom is called as Loin Loom. Sometime, it is also known as Back Strap Loom. The shedding of the loom will be formed by lifting one of the two half heald to insert the pick (i.e. weft thread) and release the half heald to close the shed and beat up the pick by a beater (beater has similar function of beating up of reed in the sley of a throw shuttle/frame loom). And, then the second heald of the two half heald will be lifted up for inserting the next pick and

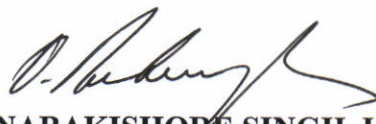


release the heald to close the shed for beating up the pick by the beater. Thus, one complete set of a repeat of plain weave is completed. Similar function will be repeated till one half of the black background fabric is completed. A similar process will be done for weaving another half of the fabric. After completing the weaving second half, the two pieces will be stitched together in the centre to make it a complete one black background fabric. However, the fabric is yet to be called Shaphee Lanphee as the 10 highly stylized motifs are yet to be embroidered.

- **Weaving on Throw/Frame Loom:** The weaver will form first shed by pressing the treadle and the shuttle is drawn or pulled by the picking rope and the shuttle with pirn passes through the shed. After closing the shed, the sley will beat up the last pick. Similarly, the second, third, fourth pick will be inserted into the consecutive sheds formed by pressing the subsequent wire heald and so on till a complete one half of the black background fabric is completed. A similar process will be done for weaving another half of the fabric. After completing the weaving of the second half of the fabric, the two pieces will be stitched together in the centre to make it a complete one black background fabric. However, the fabric is yet to be called Shaphee Lanphee as the 10 highly stylized motifs are yet to be embroidered.
- **Embroidery (needle work):** Unlike such other embroidery, the work on Shaphee Lanphee embroidery is done without any frame support. It starts the manual embroidery from right to left horizontally by a needle. The stitching method is locally known as pumhanba, means repeat threading. The long float in the embroidery is broken with self stitching of the embroidery thread. The needle has a length of 8-10 cm with proportionate size of the length. The embroidery yarn will be threaded through the tip of the needle and pull it out till the two ends of the yarn is long enough to tie a knot. Then, the embroiderer will identify the pattern, cut-out motif and wooden blocks suitably. After suitable selection, the pattern, cut-out motif and block will be impressed over the black background fabric with the help of washable chalk or mud. The embroiderer will keep the fabric for drying up the impression. After the impressions are dried, the embroiderer will start the work with the Thwanmichak (the Star) in the lower left motif and gradually embroidered till the fourth vertical row of Iroichi (buffalo horn). The embroiderer will push the needle from right first as per the round shape of the Star with white colour yarn and the needle will be pulled it out within the boundary of the impressed motif. The needling processes will be continued till the completion of each motif. After completing the fourth vertical row of Iroichi, the embroiderer will start the work with the Thwanmick (Star) in the right upper right motif and gradually embroidered till the inner fourth vertical row of Iroichi (buffalo horn) in the right side of the fabric is completed. The final embroidery work will be done with the two Shamu (two Elephants) in the middle of the fabric. Then, the Shaphee Lanphee fabric is completed. The embroiderer will now check the embroidered fabric and cut away the protruding extra threads or yarn to make it a smooth and even fabric. The fabric will be washed to remove the dirt and impressed washable chalk or mud and then pressed by either charcoal iron or electrical iron, preferably traditional charcoal heavy iron.

13. Inspection Body: The Inspection Committee is, an independent and neutral Body which is capable of regulating the Quality and use of Geographical Indications in respect of the Shaphee Lanphee consisting of following members:

1. One Representative from the Department of Handlooms and Textiles- Not lower to the Rank of Deputy Director;
2. One Representative from Manipur State Weavers Apex Society;
3. One Representative from the Department of Commerce, Manipur University;
4. One Representative from the Weavers Service Centre, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, Imphal, Manipur;
5. One Representative from the Primary Weavers Service Cooperative Society
6. One National / State Awarded Artisan of Shaphee Lanphee;
7. One Artisan of Shaphee Lanphee;
8. One Representative from the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship,
9. One Representative from Mutua Museum, Imphal.



**(O. NABAKISHORE SINGH, IAS)**  
Principal Secretary (Commerce & Industries)  
to the Govt. of Manipur

O. Nabakishore Singh  
Principal Secretary (C & I)  
Government of Manipur.

No. HL-134/C&I/2006(I)  
**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES**

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**UNDERTAKING**  
Imphal, the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2013

It is certify that

- i) The Department of Commerce & Industries, Govt. of India representing the whole handloom weavers of the Shaphee Lanphee woven/manufactured in Manipur.
- ii) The Department of Commerce & Industries has been implementing various handloom schemes both as Centrally and State Sponsored Schemes for the benefit of handloom weavers of Manipur
- iii) The Department is committed to safeguard the weavers of the Shaphee Lanphee woven/manufactured in Manipur.
- iv) The Department will provide any such handloom welfare schemes to the weavers of the Shaphee Lanphee woven/manufactured in Manipur.
- v) That Department will ensure for registration of 1000 artisans as authorized users of the Shaphee Lanphee woven/manufactured in Manipur.
- vi) the Department will also extend such any other handloom schemes to the weavers of the Shaphee Lanphee woven/manufactured in Manipur.



**(O. NABAKISHORE SINGH, IAS)**  
Principal Secretary (Commerce & Industries)  
to the Govt. of Manipur

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**O. Nabakishore Singh**  
Principal Secretary( C & I )  
Government of Manipur.