

STATEMENT OF CASE

(A) Applicant No.1: Kumbhkar Hastkala Vikas Samiti
Address : Falsund Road, Near Police Chowki, Pokaran,
 District Jaisalmer, Rajasthan 345021

Applicant No.2: RUDA – Rural Non Farm Development Agency
Address : 3rd Floor B- Block, Yojana Bhavan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme,
 Jaipur 302005. Rajasthan, India

(B) Geographical Indication : Pokaran Pottery Craft
 Class : 21

(C) List of association of persons / Producers / organization / Authority : List of 260 artisans – enclosed as Annexure E

(D) Type of goods : Handicrafts. Pots, pitchers, *kulhars* or tea cups, *diyars*, parat, gullak, pen stand among other things, whereas decorative articles include fishes, horses, wind chimes, and all type of animals, vases, etc.

(E) Specification : The recognizing characteristic of Pokaran Pottery Craft is its light Pink, almost white colour, which is the result of a laborious process in which the clay is beaten & ground to provide appropriate texture and then filtered through a sieve so that the powder of clay that passes through is of fine texture. Human judgement and expertise are applied at every step. Once fired, the products become very tough and last for many years. Some of the ancient Pokaran Pottery grain silos are said to be lasting for over three generations and are still in use. Pokaran (also known as Pokharan), is a city and a municipality located in Jaisalmer district in the Indian state of Rajasthan, surrounded by rocky, sandy and five salt ranges. It is a remote location in the Thar Desert region and served as the test site for India's first underground nuclear weapon detonation. In summers, the temperature goes upto 50^o Celsius and in winters as low as 0^o Celsius. It is this climate that gives the soil its uniqueness.

(F) Name of the Geographical Indication (and particulars): Pokaran Pottery Craft

(G) Description of goods:

Pokaran Pottery is of two types—glazed and unglazed. The village *kumbhar* (potter) produces only unglazed wares whereas the *kashigar* (skilled potter) makes the more artistic varieties that are often glazed. Terracotta is traditional in Pokaran. Earlier they used to make household products like matka, kulhars and with the time they moved to decorative items like vase, toys, pen stands etc.

Each and every Pokaran Pottery product depicts a particular theme and is capable to find a place anywhere, be it a garden or a home. Various items crafted out of terracotta include hand

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painted plant pots, large decorative vases, terracotta clay planters, handmade flower pots, statues etc. Similarly utility wares like cooking and serving pots, paraat, kulhars, chanti, gullak, tawa can be used for various purpose and have good market demand in rural as well as in urban area.

(H) Geographical area of Production and Map: *Enclosed as Annexure F*

(I) Proof of origin: (Historical records)

Terracotta, Terra cotta or Terra-cotta (Italian: "baked earth", from the Latin *terra cocta*) is a clay-based unglazed ceramic, although the term can also be applied to glazed ceramics where the fired body is porous and red in color. The term is also used to refer to items made out of this material and to its natural, brownish orange color, which varies considerably. In archaeology and art history, "terracotta" is often used of objects not made on a potter's wheel, such as figurines, where objects made on the wheel from the same material, possibly even by the same person, are called pottery; the choice of term depending on the type of object rather than the material.

Terracotta has been used throughout history for sculpture and pottery, as well as bricks and roof shingles. In ancient times, the first clay sculptures were dried (baked) in the sun after being formed. Later, they were placed in the ashes of open hearths to harden, and finally kilns were used, similar to those used for pottery today. Indian pottery is of two types—glazed and unglazed. The village *kumbhar* (potter) produces only unglazed wares whereas the *kashigar* (skilled potter) makes the more artistic varieties that are often glazed.

The art of Terracotta Pottery in Pokaran known as Pokaran Pottery Craft is as ancient as history which can be borne by the fact that some of the ancient Pokaran Pottery grain silos are said to be lasting for over three generations and are still in use. The potter families earlier used to make household products like matka, kulhars and with the time they moved to decorative items like vase, toys, pen stands etc. Historically, the people involved in the terracotta craft have been the *kumbhar* (a caste in the Hindu hierarchy), who generally did not have any landholdings. The soil of Pokaran is light pink in colour and is brought from an area 5 kms away called Rind. In this area spread over approximately 250 bigha, rain water collects as a result of which the soil takes a particular viscosity ideal for the pottery. Hence, it is the particular climate and soil of the area which differentiates Pottery of Pokaran.

Mention of Pokaran has been made in ancient texts like Puran and Pushkaranya.

Enclosed as Annexure G

(J) Methods of Production: There are two methods of production. One for unglazed and the other for glazed.

Method 1 for unglazed pottery

Appropriate quantity of water is poured and beaten by hand to prepare the clay dough. Once the clay dough is made it is placed on the *Chak* or potter's wheel and spun. As the wheel spins

around, the potter would use his hands to shape the clay into pot or any other product. After it is shaped into a form, finer detailing and designing is done by the nimble fingers or little tools. Once many products are made these are then put to the kiln for firing.

A large pit of 1.5' to 2' depth is dug and Ash is put as the first layer. Over that cow dung cakes, firewood, and cheaply available inflammable items are put as the second layer. Over these, pieces of broken & discarded earthen vessels/pots are put as the third layer, which acts as the support to the raw pottery products that are made. Once the raw products are placed, these are again covered a layer of broken pieces of earthen vessels and another layer of ash and finally some water is sprinkled to add some moisture. One the kiln is prepared, it is lit. The process takes about 5-7 hours depending on the number of products to be fired.

The kiln is left burning for one entire day and another day to cool down. The third day, the products are removed from the kiln. Firing turns the products from off-white to red and gives strength to last for years.

After cleaning the ash from the products, these are now ready to sell.

Method 2 for glazed pottery

The Clay is sent to the grinder, after grinding the qualified and unqualified clay will be send to ball mill for regrinding. A ball mill, a type of grinder is used for regrinding (or mixing) materials like ores, chemicals, ceramic raw materials and paints. Ball mills rotate around a horizontal axis, partially filled with the material to be ground plus the grinding medium. Different materials are used as media, including ceramic balls, flint pebbles and stainless steel balls. An internal cascading effect reduces the material to a fine powder.

The cake is then put into a pug mill in which the clay is chopped into fine pieces. This chopping de-airs the clay as pumps suck out air pockets that are exposed by this process. The cake is then formed into cylinders that are now ready to be molded or formed.

The hollow ware such as vases is largely made on jiggering machines. The clay cylinders made in the plug mill are sent to the jiggering machine. In order to make a vase, a wet clay cylinder is dropped onto the jiggering machine by a suction arm which positions the clay inside a plaster mold. A metal arm then comes down into the wet clay cylinder forcing it against the interior wall of the plaster mold thus forming the new vessel.

After the pieces have been dried, they are ready for glazing. The pieces may be entirely covered in one color of glaze by being run under a waterfall of glaze that completely coats each piece, or the pieces may be sprayed with glaze. Deep hollow wares such as vases have to be flushed with glaze by hand to ensure that they are completely coated on the inside. Glazes are generally applied to a thickness of 0.006-0.007 in (0.015-0.017 cm). Other pieces may be more decoratively glazed. Some pieces are printed with screen-printing, others have a decorative decal applied by hand, others may have lines or concentric rings applied by machines, and still others may be painted by hand.

The kiln changes the glaze into a glass-like coating, which helps make the pot virtually impervious to liquid. Single-color production pottery requires only one firing with the new kilns and glazes. Cotton "burrs" are a mixture of sand, leaves, stalks, hulls, cotton, and have a relatively low heating value, but do burn or smolder well when storage piles catch fire.

Quality Control

Raw material is checked thoroughly by the potters themselves to ensure that the clay (mithi matti), used for preparing pottery, contains the right mix of ingredients required. Glaze must be as pure as possible and checked for correct shade, viscosity, gravity, etc. Kiln temperature must be carefully monitored. And each human involved in production uses their eyes to monitor against inferior products.

Byproducts/Waste

There are no harmful by-products resulting from the production of pottery. Clay scraps and imperfect pieces produced off the jiggering machine or from slip casting can be re-mixed and re-used. All glazes can be touched by the human and are not harmful in raw state.

Raw material

The only **natural resource this trade uses is clay**, lots of clay, which is available locally 5km away from their place. The other materials required include dung cakes, grass straw, coal/firewood and ash.

Tools

The main tools used for making terracotta are:

- ☐ *Kumbhar ka charkha* or *chak*—potter's wheel;
- ☐ *Chanti*—wooden stick to rotate the wheel;
- ☐ *Thepi*—hammer

(K) Uniqueness: The clay in Pokaran is light pink in colour and very fine in texture. Once fired, the products become very tough and last for many years. Some of the ancient Pokaran Pottery grain silos are said to be lasting for over three generations and are still in use. Pokaran is a remote location in the Thar Desert region. In summers, the temperature goes upto 48.1° Celsius and in winters as low as 0° Celsius. It is this climate that gives the soil its uniqueness. The soil of Pokaran is light pink in colour and is brought from an area 5 kms away called Rind. In this area spread over approximately 250 bigha, rain water collects as a result of which the soil takes a particular viscosity ideal for the pottery. Hence, it is the particular climate and soil of the area which differentiates Pottery of Pokaran and makes it unique.

(L) Inspection body:

Executive Director- RUDA

2-3 representatives of National awardees/ State Merit Certificate holders for the Craft.

Assistant Director, O/o DC (Handicrafts), New Delhi

NGO SAFMA Representative

M. OTHER -LOGO MARK: THE POKARAN POTTERY CRAFT LOGO WILL BE USED BY THE ARTISANS AS LOGO AND MARK OF IDENTIFICATION.APPLICANT
THROUGH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charu WaliKhanna'.

Dr. Charu WaliKhanna
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And Patent Agent No. IN/PA-436**DR. CHARU WALIKHANNA**
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