

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1963
(ANSWERED ON 11.02.2026)**

CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CLRI) IN LADAKH

1963. SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the demand and need to establish a regional branch of the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) in Ladakh to support the development of the leather industry and related sectors in the region and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the efforts made so far by the Government or CSIR to explore the possibility of setting up such a regional centre in Ladakh;**
- (c) whether there is any concrete plan or proposal under consideration for establishing a CLRI regional branch in Ladakh and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the timeline by which the Government anticipates implementing such a plan to promote scientific research and industrial development in Ladakh through CLRI's presence; and**
- (e) the specific steps that will be taken to facilitate infrastructure, staffing and research collaboration for the regional centre in Ladakh ?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) to (e) Presently, there is no plan to establish a regional centre of CSIR - Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI) in Ladakh.**

The CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, has

been actively working in the Ladakh region to develop the local leather industry, improve the value chain, and promote entrepreneurship, particularly among women and artisans. This initiative is part of a broader collaboration under the CSIR-Ladakh initiative, which aims to leverage Science & Technology for the region's development. The brief details of Key Initiatives and Activities in Ladakh undertaken by CSIR-CLRI is as follows:

- **Skill Development and Training:** CSIR-CLRI has conducted specialized 30-day training programs for artisans in Leh and Kargil, focusing on leather and allied products. These sessions aimed to turn the traditional, unorganized leather usage into a sustainable, structured industry.
- **Value Addition to Local Products:** The institute is assisting in developing combination products using leather and traditional items, such as *Goncha* (robes) and *Kamarbandh* (sashes), with improved designs and techniques to meet market needs.
- **Natural Dyeing and Material Usage:** CSIR-CLRI is working with local artisans to use textile materials dyed with natural dyes for making combination products.
- **Empowering Women Entrepreneurs:** Training programs have specifically targeted Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and women artisans to create skilled, self-reliant entrepreneurs in the leather sector.
- **Collaborative Partners:** The work is done in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, Ladakh, Rural Development Department (RDD), and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Ladakh.

CSIR-CLRI's involvement is part of the CSIR-Ladakh initiative, which also includes other CSIR laboratories focusing on high-altitude agriculture, bio-resources, and medicinal plants.
