

**MINUTES OF THE STATE LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE, ASSAM MEETING
HELD ON 26.11.2018 AT ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, KHANAPARA,
GUWAHATI**

The State Level Bankers' Committee Assam met for the quarter ended June, 2018 and September 2018 on the 26th November, 2018 in the Administrative Staff Training College, Khanapara, Guwahati under the Co-Chairmanship of Shri Rajiv Kumar Bora, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Finance, Govt. of Assam in the chair. The meeting was attended by the senior officials of RBI, NABARD, Banks, Financial Institutions and Govt. line departments

The following dignitaries were present in the meeting-

1. Shri Sunil Kumar Tandon, Chief General Manager, SBI NE Circle Guwahati.
2. Shri Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary, Finance, Govt of Assam.
3. Shri Shyam Jagannathan, Commissioner and Secretary (Finance).
4. Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, GM NW-1, SBI Local Head Office Guwahati.
5. Shri O. P. Dhoundiyal, General Manager, NABARD.
6. Shri Umesh J Panaria, DGM (RBI), Guwahati

Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh welcomed the Guests and apprised the house about the present status of the Banks functioning in the State. He apprised the house that advance in the State has gone up by 3734 crores which helped to increase the CDR to 52.39% as compared to 50.44% of March quarter 2018. In Priority Sector Advance the state has observed significant growth with total priority sector advance constituting 58.64% of the total advances. In Agriculture segment, it is 20.87% which is above the benchmark. Similarly there is significant growth in MSME and overall advances as well. He expressed his confidence on achievement of the target in ACP as the State has achieved 44% of the target upto the second quarter of the year. In Financial Inclusion, Department of Financial Services has launched two schemes GSA-I and GSA-II. During the campaign our performance stands at more than 100% of the target. He apprised the house the constitution of Sub-Committees on Priority Sector Lending, Govt. sponsored loans, Technical issues along with the Steering sub-committee. These sub-committees met before this meeting and the agenda were finalised. He expressed his hope for positive outcome of this SLBC meeting.

Shri Sunil Kumar Tandon, CGM, SBI started his deliberations with thanking to the Banking fraternity for the success of MSME outreach campaign launched by Prime Minister in three districts of Assam – Kamrup rural, Barpeta and Cachar. He stated that CDR at 52% cannot be considered as a good indicator in comparison to national average.

- He urged the Banks to take necessary steps to increase the flow of credit to MSME sector in view of the importance given by the PM in his address on 2nd November, 2018 on 100 days MSME outreach campaign.
- He requested the Banks to respond to the call of Honourable Prime Minister for loans on Contactless Lending Platform (CLP) which gives in principle approval within 59

minutes. He apprised the house that already 51 loans have been sanctioned by SBI in a short span of 20 days.

- He urged on coverage of unbanked villages and pushing the CSPs to cover the customers under three Social Security Schemes.
- He suggested that one of the four sub-committees shall take care of NPA management. All PSBs are reeling under the high rate of NPAs and also a monitoring mechanism for low value accounts especially those sanctioned under MUDRA, PMSBY. Special drive is required for recovery of these loans.

Shri Rajiv Kumar Bora, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam welcomed all the participants of SLBC meeting.

- He acknowledged and appreciated the progress made in overall advances including Priority Sector Advances and also for acting upon the decision taken in the last SLBC meeting by constituting Sub-committees and Steering committee
- He told that for State Govt, SLBC is an important platform to carry forward the development schemes and development plans and therefore sought active cooperation from all Banks and other financial institutions present there.
- He also took notice of the improvement made in CD ratio which is 52.39% though not good enough. He requested to reach the national average level of 70%.
- He advised to step up priority sector lending for a positive result next quarter and must be analysed for sectoral performance in case of Agriculture and other Priority Sectors like MSME, Services and Skill development sector
- He stated that true financial inclusion will take place only after the banks consider Financial Inclusion in the State as important as that in the aspirational districts.
- As connectivity issue is a persisting one and a challenge to Financial Inclusion, he hoped improvements have been made.

AGENDA PRESENTATION BY DGM (FI & MF), SBI, AND DISCUSSION THEREON

1. It has been decided by the house to adopt the minutes of the minutes of SLBC meeting held on 18th July, 2018.
2. Action Taken Reports of last meeting were discussed and accepted.
3. The house has been apprised about the formation of various subcommittees.
4. Banks which are showing negative growth have to accelerate growth in various sectors.

(Action Points:-Andhra Bank, IDBI, Syndicate Bank, Federal Bank, ICICI Bank)

5. It was suggested that extension of Agricultural loan to SHGs and JLG may be the potential alternate solution to extend agricultural loans to the majority of the population of Assam. **(Action Points- All Banks)**
6. All the Banks shall provide the contact details and name of the nodal officer whose name shall be displayed in the portal www.industriesassam@nic.in to facilitate financing the MSME sector. **(Action Points:- All Banks)**

7. The details of various schemes shall be circulated to all Banks by Office of the Director, MSME. **(Action Points:- MSME Department)**
8. Workshops and sensitisation programmes for online application are to be arranged at district level for LDMs/ Entrepreneurs/ Branches by MSME department. **(Action Points:- MSME department)**
9. Responding to the problem of land record related to Agriculture finance, the Additional Chief Secretary Finance pointed out that digitisation of land records has already taken place (Jamabandi) in digital format and one can seek the digital form of land record copies from Revenue department under Right to Public Services Act (RTPS).
10. A timeframe for disposal of KCC loans, common format for application of KCC loan and comprehensive list of documents required by the Banks to be submitted to SLBC by 30/11/2018. **(Action points:- All Banks)**
11. Additional Chief Secretary Finance suggested that the broad parameters, the standard operating procedure (SOP) and document requirements by the different banks must be placed in the SLBC portal. It may help in getting rid of middlemen, harassment, corruption and frustration in the system. The rejections also should be conveyed at the first instance. **(Action Points:- SLBC)**
12. Additional Chief Secretary Finance said that Aspirational Districts Scheme is being regularly monitored by PMO and there are 49 parameters like Livelihood and Skill Development Missions to focus on, which require involvement of Banks too and sought cooperation from Banks in those seven districts.
13. DGM (FI) made it clear that in case of PMEGP schemes the Banks should not insist for hard copies from the borrowers. It should be downloaded from the portal and processed by the Bank branches. It was pointed out that the Govt has decided to fix 15th February, 2019 as the last date for implementation of all govt sponsored programmes for the 2018-19. Director KVIC informed that there are 6613 applications pending with major pendency in ALB, AGVB, BOI, CAN INB etc. The scheme of second dose finance up to Rs.1 crore under PMEGP was discussed and target of 3 units for each of 33 districts was suggested by Director KVIC. It was also suggested by the Bankers that the unit verification by KVIC needs to be completed within a time period between 6 months to 1 year from the date of Disbursement. **(Action Points:- All Banks and KVIC)**
14. As per subcommittee finding the Banks and Govt. together need to suggest ways and measures for recovery of loans under Govt. Sponsored Schemes. Union Bank of India and UCO Bank suggested that many important NPA recovery decisions and tasks can be done at the ground level through DCC / DLRC meetings and discussions. A lot of NPA and SARFESI cases can be settled at the district and ground level.
15. CGM, SBI, also raised the issue of misappropriation of funds by the borrowers which has to be taken seriously at all levels. He cited the instances of Stone Crushing units where the funds have been disbursed but the said units are nonexistent on inspection. He suggested for demonstrative action against such

- borrowers. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance suggested for looking into the NPA data bank wise as well as scheme wise and requested the banks to meet the District authorities for expediting the Bakijai cases.
16. The banks were advised to submit Non NRLM-SHG NPAs and NRLM-NPAs to ASRLM for their recovery support. The loans to individual beneficiaries under NULM Scheme need to be supported. **(Action Points:- All Banks)**
 17. Responding to the connectivity issues, Govt representative from Telecom Department requested for the list of areas where connectivity is an issue, so that BSNL, Bharati / Vodafone / Reliance Jio and three other operators can take up the issue. The member shared the contact details as Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Director, stationed at Guwahati Mobile no- 9868136070. The members collectively opined that other three Telecom Service providers should also be a part of such meetings.
 18. DGM (FI), SBI said that 671 villages were allotted in the state of Assam for coverage of banking and presently only one village remains to be covered, which may be reallocated to some other Bank by DCC, if designated APEX Bank fails to do the needful. Since India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) has also commenced operation, they may be a suitable alternative for Financial Inclusion in rural areas. India Post Payment Bank participant said that 4011 post offices will have payment banking facilities by 31st of December.
 19. There is a need of convergence of all schemes of RBI, and DFS like the unbanked Rural Centres(URCs), Sub Service Areas(SSAs) Coverage under 5 km radius above 5000, below 2000 population which may consolidate the efforts for coverage.
 20. It is pointed out that Small Finance Banks like North East Finance Bank, Ujjivan, Jana Finance Bank data is not captured so far and should be given ID and password to upload their performance. **(Action Points:- Banks and SLBC)**
 21. GM, SBI, observed that for some banks there is negative growth in Priority Sector, which needs to be looked into. Majority of banks are showing NIL report in NRLM, NLUM, PMEGP and KCC. **(Action Points:- All Banks)**
 22. In the flagship scheme launched by GOA “Ghare Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Mash”, 96 crore credit support has been provided by NABARD out of which 75% is going to the fish farmers on their investment and 25% to be brought by themselves, where the Banks can intervene for credit linkage (Action:- All Banks)
 23. Principal Secretary Finance suggested that in case of absence of cooperation from the Banks, the SLBC should take up the matter to the level of Department of Financial Services and even highlight it to the Ministry of Finance and Chief Minister of Assam.
 24. CGM, SBI asked the Banks to give assurances in the form of a proposed action plan. There should not be unreasonable delay in sanctioning of loans and meeting the Target.

Many banks like IDBI, CANARA, ICICI, DENA, YES BANK and Axis Bank came forward giving assurances that by 31st December, corrective actions will be taken and position will be improved.

Miscellaneous Agenda

25. Mr. Tapas Bhattacharjee, Senior Marketing Officer, Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Central Government, shared information about new schemes of Govt. of India. Agricultural Marketing Infrastructural scheme, that supports post harvest marketing, surplus through two categories like Storage Infrastructure and Non-storage Infrastructure with 33% subsidy and project tenure of 18 months.

He informed that Govt Agencies are eligible to apply subject to taking reforms in 6 areas i.e direct marketing, contract farming, e-trading, single point levy of taxes, single unified licence. He also described about Grameen (Rural) Huts, an innovative idea by honourable Prime Minister where subsidy is provided through NABARD for Banks & RRBs and BSE directly.

The Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Sri Satyabrata Mishra, AGM, SBI.