

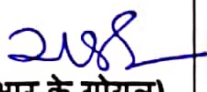



बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

India's International Bank

संयोजक - राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर्स समिति, गुजरात
चौथा तल, देना लक्ष्मी भवन, आश्रम रोड, अहमदाबाद - 380009 (गुजरात)

Convenor - State level Bankers' Committee, Gujarat
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सं. 164-रास्तबैस/413/2020	18 मई 2020	Ref.No.164-SLBC/ 413/2020	18 th May 2020
समस्त सदस्य, राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर्स समिति गुजरात प्रिय महोदय / महोदया, दिसंबर-2019 को समाप्त त्रिमाहीकी राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर्स समिति, गुजरात की 164वीं बैठक का कार्यवृत्त । एतदद्वारा कृपया उपरोक्त बैठक के कार्यवृत्त की संलग्न प्रति प्राप्त करें, जो दिसंबर-2019 को समाप्त त्रिमाही हेतु हमारे कार्यालय के दिनांक 30.04.2020 के पत्र द्वारा कार्यसूची के प्रसार के माध्यम से आयोजित की गई थी। कृपया अपने संस्थान से संबंधित मुद्दों पर आवश्यक कार्रवाई कर, की हुई प्रगति से हमें दिनांक 31 मई 2020 तक अवगत कराते रहें, ताकि अगली बैठक में सदन के समक्ष संबंधित सूचना रखी जा सके। भवदीय,  (आर के गोयल) उप महाप्रबंधक, रास्तबैस (गुजरात)	All Members State Level Bankers' Committee Gujarat Dear Sir / Madam, MINUTES OF THE 164th STATE LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE MEETING, GUJARAT STATE FOR THE QUATER ENDED- DECEMBER 2019 Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of the above meeting, which was held through circulation of agenda vide our letter dated 30.04.2020 for the quarter ended December- 2019. Kindly update us regarding the action taken on decisions pertaining to your Institution/ Organization by 31st May 2020 , so that the same can be placed before the House in the next meeting. Yours faithfully,  (R K Goyal) Dy. General Manager, SLBC (Gujarat)		
संलग्न : यथोक्त		Encl: As stated above.	

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'Exceptional time requires, exceptional measures' – exemplifying this age old proverb, SLBC, Gujarat vide its letter dated 30th April 2020, intimated Members of this apex forum of Bankers at the State level about convening of the 164th meeting of SLBC, Gujarat though circulation of agenda owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Besides circulating agenda of the 164th meeting of SLBC amongst the Members, the agenda of the meeting has already been placed on the web-site of SLBC and Members were also provided with URL to access the said agenda and relevant annexures of the meeting.

Worth to mention that the 164th Meeting of SLBC was originally scheduled on 19th March 2020, however due to onset of pandemic emanating from COVID 19 (Corona virus), the scheduled "in house" meeting of SLBC got postponed, considering the guidelines issued by the State /Central Govt. to circumvent the spread of the virus.

Hence, Members of SLBC forum were advised to submit their feedbacks/ inputs pertaining to agenda matters of the meeting and the feedbacks/ inputs as received from the Members are being enumerated hereunder, which is to be considered as Minutes of the meeting and compliance for the relevant action points is to be ensured by concerned Members.

Ms Arachana Pandey, General Manager, Bank of Baroda took over reins of SLBC, Gujarat as a Convenor in January 2020 and she has '*the Honour of being first lady to be at the helm of SLBC, Gujarat*'.

As a Convenor, **Ms Pandey** has appreciated the brave and determined efforts of Bank Employees/ Officers in providing essential Banking services to the masses at large and has also conveyed her resolute patronage to Bank Employees/ Officers engaged in extending Banking services in this testing time of pandemic.

Shri V S Khichi, Chairman, SLBC as well as Executive Director, Bank of Baroda has conveyed following important inputs:

- I) Considering huge number of pending applications on the recently developed common portal to track the Govt. sponsored loan application, all Banks have been advised to instruct their Branches to clear the pendency of such loan applications.

(Action: All Banks)

- II) SLBC Gujarat is requested to follow-up with Agriculture & Revenue dept., Govt. of Gujarat and extends necessary support, if required, for development of utility on ANYROR portal for effective utilization by all the member banks, to extract

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village wise list of farmers and verify with their records for the farmers left out under the KCC scheme.

(Action: SLBC, Dir (IF) GoG, Dir (Agri.) GoG, Revenue Dept. GoG)

III) The circular regarding operational guidelines to be adhered by Police Authorities under the SARFAESI Act, is yet to be notified by the Home Dept., GoG. The State Govt. is once again requested for earliest issuance of circular in this regard.

(Action: Dir (IF) GoG, Home Dept., GoG)

IV) India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) is requested to update its Customer Service Points (CSPs) as Banking Outlet (BO), provided it qualifies all the stipulations to be defined as BO, as per the extant guidelines of RBI.

(Action: IPPB)

V) All Banks have been advised to coordinate with their respective Head Office/ Corporate Office for earliest migration to the new system of Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) data flow, which can fetch LBS data directly from the CBS of the various Banks, thereby minimizing manual intervention and associated errors.

(Action: All Banks)

VI) Achievement of ACP in the State up to 31.12.2019 is 95.72%. However, in Agriculture, ACP achievement is only 74.05%, which is a matter of concern. Out of 33 Districts in the State, as many as 23 Districts have not achieved the ACP and remained below the State average of 95.72%. All the member banks are requested to issue necessary instructions to Branches for achievement of ACP, with particular reference to Agriculture.

(Action: All Banks)

VII) The share of advances to Minority community in priority sector advances stood at 3.88% at the quarter ended Dec, 2019. All member Banks are requested to advise the branches to increase the share of advances to minority community.

(Action: All Banks)

As Chairman of SLBC Gujarat, **Shri Khichi** has conveyed appreciation for unwavering efforts of Bankers in this challenging time and as a patron he has also expressed his unstinted support for Banking fraternity in the State.

Shri Pankaj Joshi, Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance Dept., GoG has exhorted on following points:

I) Appreciated the exemplary role played by the IPPB in delivering cash doles in far flung rural areas and suggested proposal to classify the CSPs of IPPB as Banking Outlet.

(Action: IPPB and SLBC)

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- II) All Banks to ensure that all of their Banking Touch Points viz. Branches, ATMs, BC Points are properly tagged with Geo Coordinates (Latitude & Longitude) and IFSC (In case of Branch) / KO Code (In case of BC Points) on the Jan Dhan Darshak application.

(Action: All Banks)

- III) Informed that land has been allotted in Bhavnagar for RSETI and the District Collectors of Narmada and Mahisagar have been suitably advised for the same. Advised that the LDMs may proactively make suitable options available for final allotments.

(Action: LDMs of Narmada and Mahisagar)

- IV) Requested Banks to take cognizance of the revamped guidelines for PMFBY and create awareness among farmers regarding the 'non-mandatory enrolment option' now available under the PMFBY Scheme. Banks need to obtain prescribed declaration, from the existing loanee farmers willing to exercise the option of 'opt out' from the PMFBY scheme.

(Action: All Banks)

- V) Urged Banks to give required push to KCC scheme under Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors, as the State of Gujarat has the longest coastline and a robust animal husbandry sector. Hence, there is urgent need for improving credit off-take under the scheme, which can turn out to be a major boost to the rural economy in the state.

(Action: All Banks)

- VI) Advised Banks to improve performance under Priority Sectors, especially under Agriculture and Weaker Sections and also urged for ensuring utmost accuracy in reporting figures under NPA.

(Action: All Banks)

- VII) Appreciated performance under PMEGP, GWEDC and VBY schemes and advised for more meaningful outcome driven meetings of DLCC & BLBC in all districts.

(Action: All LDMs)

Finally, the Finance Department, Govt. of Gujarat places on record it's appreciation towards the duties being carried out by the banking fraternity in providing banking services in this precarious time of COVID 19 pandemic.

Shri S K Panigrahy, Regional Director, RBI has expressed heartfelt gratitude to all bankers in the State & UT for their contribution in making available the essential banking services during the lockdown period and facilitating the DBT payments. He has also conveyed his sincere thanks to the Govt. of Gujarat and Law enforcement agencies

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for their continuous support to bankers during the ongoing lockdown period. He also underscored need for better inter-agency coordination among RBI, NABARD, Banks and Government Authorities for maintenance of emergency banking services to public during this period of pandemic. Important inputs conveyed by **Shri Panigrahy** are hereunder:

I) To promote MSME Sector and provide timely and adequate credit: Owing to nationwide lockdown in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, RBI has extended the benefit of one-time restructuring without an asset classification downgrade to standard accounts of GST registered MSMEs that were in default as on January 01, 2020. The restructuring under the scheme has to be implemented latest by December 31, 2020 and Banks have been advised to pass-on benefit of the scheme to MSME units, as per specific schemes designed by respective Head Offices of various Banks.

(Action: All Banks)

II) KCC Saturation campaign: The campaign to saturate all the beneficiaries of PM KISAN scheme with KCC scheme was launched by Ministry of Agriculture, Gol in the month of February 2020 and pendency of the applications received under the KCC saturation campaign was emphasized in the VC held by the DFS, MoF, Gol on 17th April 2020. Considering the same, all Banks are advised to clear the pendency of KCC applications received under the campaign at the earliest and ensure reporting of the progress by their Branches under the campaign on the central portal of PMFBY.

(Action: All Banks)

III) Reduction in number of Unbanked Rural Centers (URCs): It is observed that still there are 159 URCs in Tier-V Centres at the end of December, 2019. All the banks may classify their BCs as BOs which comply with the eligibility criteria as per RBI circular dated May 18, 2017 on "Rationalisation of Branch Authorisation Policy", to help in reduction of number of URCs. Further, the Customer Service Points (CSPs) of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) may be classified as Banking Outlets (BOs), subject to complying with the definition of Banking Outlets (BOs). SLBC is requested to coordinate with banks and IPPB.

(Action: All Banks, IPPB and SLBC Convenor Bank)

IV) Low CD ratio in seven districts of the State: Coordinated action is required amongst all stakeholders viz. RBI, State Govt., SLBC, Banks and Lead District Managers of seven districts of the State viz. Dangs, Navsari, Anand, Porbandar, Kheda, Mahisagar and Tapi, to improve CD ratio of these Districts.

(Action: State Govt., Banks, SLBC and concerned LDMs)

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V) Status of Priority Sector Lending (PSL): It is observed that the agriculture advances at 15.24% was much below the benchmark of 18%. As regards, lending to Weaker Sections, the achievement was only 8.14%, much below the benchmark of 10%. However, total PSL stood at 48.21% against the benchmark of 40%. All stakeholders are requested to focus on improving lending to 'Agriculture' and 'Weaker Sections'. Further, the share of term lending in agriculture is very low, which needs to be vigorously followed up.

(Action: All Banks)

VI) Developing a standardized system for LBS related data flow and management: RBI has provided Block Master Codes and SLBC has already incorporated necessary changes in the web portal for submission of LBS data as per the requirement of new Standardized format. Banks may carry out a trial run of the new LBS data flow and confirm their preparedness for migration to the new data management system.

(Action: SLBC and All Banks)

VII) Expanding and Deepening of Digital Payments Ecosystem: RBI has designed a specific format for banks to report monthly progress made in digitisation and the said format is available on the SLBC portal. However, it is observed that timely reporting is not happening. Central Bank of India (CBI) and SLBC are requested to ensure timely uploading of monthly progress report in this regard by 5th of every month.

(Action: Central Bank of India, SLBC)

VIII) Short Term Crop loan eligible for Interest Subvention scheme (ISS) and Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) through KCC: RBI vide its circular dated February 26, 2020, had advised banks to ensure that short term crop loans eligible for ISS and PRI benefits are extended only through KCC w.e.f. April 01, 2020 and the existing short term crop loans which are not extended through KCC shall be converted into KCC loans by March 31, 2020. Subsequently, RBI vide circular dated March 31, 2020, advised that in view of the lockdown and restrictions on movement, banks may convert the existing short-term crop loans including agriculture gold loans into KCC loans by June 30, 2020, with commensurate extension of ISS and PRI benefits against such loans till June 30, 2020.

(Action: All Banks)

IX) COVID-19 – Regulatory Package – Asset Classification and Provisioning:

RBI vide its Dept. of Regulation (DoR) circular Nos. 47 and 63 dated March 27 and April 17, 2020 respectively, announced certain regulatory measures to mitigate the burden of debt servicing brought about by disruptions on account of COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the continuity of viable businesses. Detailed

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guidelines are available on RBI website. Banks are advised to ensure strict compliance to above circulars in letter and spirit.

(Action: All Banks)

RD highly appreciated and placed on record his gratitude and appreciation for all the front-line bankers in extending the essential banking services including the recent Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) announced by Central/ State Govt. during ongoing pandemic period and requested that banks should remain ready to handle more such DBT related payments to customers, as the lockdown conditions are unlikely to be lifted fully anytime soon. He also lauded the crucial role played by India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) during ongoing lockdown period in extending the essential banking services, including the door-to-door banking services in remote areas of the State.

In the face off to the COVID-19 pandemic, RD also advised Banks to act sensitively towards their employees' welfare and extend all possible assistance to their staff members besides ensuring strict adherence to the standard medical protocols as prescribed by the Govt. authorities.

The important aspects as submitted by NABARD are as under:

- I) Encouraging credit availability to youth trained in Agriculture and Allied Sector:** The Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship provides skill training and capacity building to aspiring youth in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sectors.

As the credit linkage of the trained candidates is one of the critical requirements for establishing a successful enterprise in the farm sector, Banks are requested to cover ASCI-certified candidates under their lending programmes for the purpose of extending credit to promote successful and viable rural enterprises in agricultural sector.

(Action: All Banks)

NABARD is also requested to issue detailed circular in this regard, advising Banks to consider admissibility of ASCI certificate as eligibility criterion for availing credit for setting up of an enterprise related with Agriculture & Allied Activities.

(Action: NABARD)

- II) Fixation of Crop Season / Period by SLBC for IRAC Norms of Agriculture Crop loans:** The Sub-Committee of SLBC on Agriculture in its 5th meeting held on 26.02.2020 unanimously resolved for deciding IRAC norms for Agriculture Crop Loans as under:

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- All short duration crops to have a crop season of 12 months and all long duration crops to have a crop season of 18 months, which includes time period required for harvesting and marketing. This will also provide the farmers adequate and sufficient time to realize their sale proceeds which in turn facilitates repayment / turn over in their crop loan accounts and renewal of the limits.

After due deliberation, the sub-committee resolved for classifying crop loan accounts as NPA under following conditions:

- a) For Short duration crops**, the account will be treated as NPA, if the installment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for two crop seasons, i.e. account turns to NPA after 36 months from the date of sanction/disbursement (Crop period 12 months plus two crop seasons each of 12 months).
- b) For Long duration crops**, the account will be treated as NPA, if the installment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for one crop seasons, i.e. account turns to NPA after 36 months from the date of sanction/disbursement (Crop period 18 months plus one crop season of 18 months).

As per the Lead Bank Scheme guidelines for deciding IRAC norms, the matter was itemized as agenda of the 164th meeting of SLBC and the feedbacks/ inputs received from Members are broadly segregated under two categories and summarized hereunder:

- **Perspective of NABARD:** As the harvesting and marketing period for short duration Kharif and Rabi season crops are different, there have to be two separate dates for repayment of Kharif portion of loan and Rabi portion of loan. Banks have to fix the repayment period as per the anticipated harvesting and marketing period for the crops for which the loan has been granted.
- **Perspective of SLBC and Major Banks:** There are so many crops grown in the State. Each crop has different variety having varied duration and recommended date of sowing. There are different agro-climatic conditions prevailing across the State. Moreover, crop sowing time depends on onset of monsoon (i.e. early, late, on time) and availability of irrigation facility with the farmers and accordingly the harvesting time may vary depending on sowing time.

Looking to the above, it is practically very difficult and not feasible to decide uniform crop season for a particular crop across the State. The

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implementation part becomes too complex for Banks having Pan India presence.

Moreover, as per revised guidelines of KCC Scheme, the short term component of the KCC limit is in the nature of revolving cash credit facility and the limit is being fixed by considering single/all crop/s grown by farmers as per cropping pattern. Farmers are allowed to withdraw the limit either in part or full anytime during the year with no restriction in number of debits and credits. Since Banks are maintaining single account for all the seasons/crops grown by farmers during the year, different repayment period through single account cannot be maintained.

In view of the foregoing, the Crop Season/ Period for Crop Loan accounts under IRAC norms stands as:

- For the sake of uniformity and simplicity in understanding as well as implementing crop season across the Banks, it is resolved that all short duration crops to have a crop season of 12 months and all long duration crops to have a crop season of 18 months which includes time period required for harvesting and marketing. This will also provide the farmers adequate and sufficient time to realize their sale proceeds which in turn facilitates repayment / turn over in their crop loan accounts and renewal of the limits.
- **For Short duration crops**, the account will be treated as NPA, if the installment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for two crop seasons, i.e. account turns to NPA after 36 months from the date of sanction/disbursement (Crop period 12 months plus two crop seasons each of 12 months).
- **For Long duration crops**, the account will be treated as NPA, if the installment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for one crop seasons, i.e. account turns to NPA after 36 months from the date of sanction/disbursement (Crop period 18 months plus one crop season of 18 months).

Shri R K Goyal, Head, SLBC Gujarat in his communiqué has lauded the steadfast efforts of Bank Employees/ Officers in rendering Banking services to the masses in this time of pandemic, which has made all the Bankers feel proud for the profession we are involved in.

As the contagion of COVID 19, besides causing wide-spread pandemic and jeopardizing public health has also triggered economic catastrophe, the Central as well as State Govt. would continue their endeavors in passing on various sorts of ex-gratia/ financial aids to the affected masses through the medium of Banks. Hence, it is

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incumbent on all Bankers to comply, various guidelines being issued by Central Govt./ State Govt./ RBI/ District Administration/ SLBC and inculcate habits of maintaining social distancing and proper hygiene in our daily routine, to keep ourselves as well as society at large safe from this virulent pandemic.

(Action: All Banks)

Commemoration

SLBC pays homage and mourns the untimely death of the following Bank Staff, who have laid their lives, while fighting COVID 19 pandemic:

- 1. Late Shri Jasvantkumar Parshottamdas Solanki (Age- 59), Armed Guard, Posted at Bhairavnath Branch of Union Bank of India in Ahmedabad.**
- 2. Late Shri Girishkumar Ramjibhai Chavda (Age- 50), Daftary, Posted at Narol Branch of Bank of Baorda in Ahmedabad.**

Concerned Banks are requested to ensure that eligible ex-gratia/ financial aids are hassle-freely extended to bereaved family members of the deceased Bank staff, as per extant policy of their respective Banks.

SLBC also conveys its gratitude to State Govt. /District Administration of all Districts/ Entire Medical fraternity/ Law Enforcement Agencies/ Sanitasion workers/ Grocery & Vegetable vendors and all such individuals who continued to perform their duties during the lockdown period and acted like a guardian for the citizens at large in the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic.

The meeting ends with a salute to all Bankers in the State who have risen up to the occasion and made the Banking services available to masses at large, even at the peril of their own lives.
