

**UNITED BANK OF INDIA : LEAD BANK DIVISION
CONVENER OF SLBC. TRIPURA**

Proceedings of the 127th Meeting of State Level Bankers' Committee for Tripura held on the 28th December, 2018 at the conference hall of State Guest House, Agartala.

The 127th SLBC meeting of Tripura State was held at the Conference Hall of State Guest House, Agartala on 28th December, 2018 to review the performance of Banks for the quarter ending September 2018, vis-à-vis drawing up action points for implementation of the ongoing schemes including the flagship programs launched by the Govt of India.

The meeting was chaired by Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Tripura with the presence of Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, MD and C.E.O., United Bank of India as Convener of SLBC Tripura . Other dignitaries included Sri L K Gupta, Chief Secretary, Addl Chief Secretary of Agriculture & Industry, Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the key Govt Departments, AGM from RBI, DGM of NABARD, Senior Executives of the State Government, SIDBI, Member Banks & Insurance Companies. All the LDMs and RSETI Directors also participated in the meeting. A list of participants of the meeting is enclosed.

At the outset, Shri Mukti Ranjan Ray, Convener SLBC, Tripura extended a hearty welcome to Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister along with other participants. Thereafter, he requested Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Managing Director & Chairman, SLBC Tripura to give the key note address before commencement of the proceedings

Shri Pradhan, in his address expressed his sincere thanks and conveyed his greetings to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kumar Deb for his kind presence in the august gathering, having observed that his presence, despite the busy schedule, demonstrates the eagerness for a dynamic and vibrant Tripura with involvement of all the stakeholders. He further wished a hearty welcome to Shri L.K. Gupta, Chief Secretary, Addl. Chief Secretaries of the key Departments, Principal Secretaries and other executives from the Govt. of Tripura, RBI, NABARD, SIDBI and Banks. He then requested Shri M Dohare, DGM & CRM, United Bank of India, Tripura Region to deliver the presentation on performance figures of the Banks for the quarter ended September 2018.

The proceedings started with confirmation of the minutes of the 126th SLBC meeting .Shri Pradhan, MD & Chairman of SLBC asked for placing the point wise action taken report on the major action points of the previous SLBC meeting pertaining to the quarter ended June, 2018 along with discussion of the listed agenda items of the 127th meeting for the quarter ending September, 2018.

Shri Dohare, DGM & CRM, United Bank of India then proceeded to outline the performance of the Banks against the Annual Credit Plan as well as other focused areas concerning the banks as envisaged by SLBC & other Stakeholders.

1. **CD Ratio:** The State registered growth in CD ratio by 4% to the level of 49% from September 2017. The role of the banks in the growth of the economy of the State and the expectation emerging in the changing scenario which demands for a sustainable economic growth and all round development of the State was highlighted. Shri Dohare requested the Bankers to put more emphasis on further growth in CD ratio for reaching the targeted level of 60% by March 2019 through disbursement of more credit in the eligible sectors to the call of the Chief Secretary that a high target under ACP would lead to attainment of better CD Ratio by Banks. Sri Pradhan also desired that Banks should first target the CD Ratio of 60% which would conversely help them attaining the ACP targets as well. **(Action: All Banks)**

2. **Refund of Service Charges :** It was informed that the refund of deducted amount from accounts of beneficiaries of Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been completed in almost all identified cases. However, Shri Kumar Alok, Principal Secretary, GoT, informed the house that he was aware of a few left out cases in SBI Bamutia Branch. The Competent Authority of SBI assured to look into the issue for its early resolution.

3. **Opening of Bank Branches in unbanked villages:** On the issue of opening branches at 5 allocated villages, representatives of Union Bank of India and Canara Bank replied that they are exploring the feasibility of opening a fixed point banking outlet operated by Business Correspondents to service their allocated villages. All the 5 concerned Banks were advised to update the status regarding the same to SLBC desk for onward reporting to the State Govt authorities and complete the process immediately.. **(Action: Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Vijaya Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank).**

Opening of Bank Branches / Shifting of Branches: On the issue of opening of UBI branches at Fatikroy / Kanchanbari, SBI branch at Kathalia & Ranirbazar, demand for opening of new Bank branches at Manikpur under Chawmanu block, at Karamcharra under Manu block and at Rajnagar – Anandabazar under Jubarajnagar block, it was conveyed to the House that on account of PCA imposed by RBI on UBI, opening of new branches are currently put on hold. SLBC desk has invited interested Banks, not under PCA restrictions to avail of this opportunity for opening new branches at the concerned areas. Pertaining to the issue of shifting of some Bank branches like UBI Chawmanu branch from Manu to Chawmanu, Canara Bank, Dalak branch from Amarpur to Dalak from their present place of operation, it was opined that the concerned branches have already established business at their current place of operation, and as such, shifting of these branches is not feasible as it would be highly inconvenient for their existing customers. Shri Deepak Choudhury, Regional Manager, State Bank of India informed that SBI is planning to open 7 new branches in the State, whereupon Shri L.K. Gupta, Chief Secretary, Govt of Tripura, stressed the need for opening bank branches preferably in rural areas to serve the purpose of financial inclusion and cover more people.

4. **Agriculture:** Shri M Dohare, stated that as agriculture is the primary area of economy of the State, it requires more attention from all concerned stake holders including the Banks .He requested all the participants to ensure collective effort to cover all eligible farmers under KCC in the State. Dr. D.P. Sarkar, Director, Agriculture Dept, Govt of Tripura, emphasized on covering all KCC borrowers under PMFBY mandatorily. Dr. G.S.G. Ayyangar, Addl. Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Industries & Commerce, Govt of Tripura advised to invite PMFBY implementing Insurance companies to every SLBC meeting for discussions on issues regarding PMFBY implementation. He also elucidated that a large no. of KCC proposals sponsored by Agriculture Dept have been rejected on numerous grounds. Shri Shibatosh Choudhury, Regional Manager, State Bank of India suggested that Agriculture Dept may mark copies of sponsored proposals to controlling offices of respective Banks for follow up with branches. (**Action: All Banks and Agriculture Dept**)

The following key areas with high potential for development of Agriculture in Tripura was discussed in the meeting.

- a) **Rubber Industry:** Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura informed the house that 86000 MT rubber are currently produced in the State per year and the quantity is set to increase twice as much in the next two years, earmarking Tripura as one of the top rubber producing States in the country. He advised banks to proactively ascertain projects for smoke houses for rubber processing as the State Govt estimates the requirement of around 4000 smoke houses in the coming years. He suggested that the advances may be extended to the entrepreneurs under PMEGP, Swabalamban and Stand Up India schemes depending on the quantum of the loan. It was also informed that Department has prepared the input cost for smoke houses which is to be shared with the banks for assessing the loan proposals. In view of the potential in this segment, Shri A.Pradhan, MD & CEO of UBI advised for forming a SLBC Sub-Committee for Rubber Smoke House loans (**Action Point : SLBC, All banks and the line Deptt**)
- b) **Rice production:** Due to the efforts of the State Government, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has started procuring paddy directly from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP). FCI will procure paddy at a fixed price of Rs 1,750 per quintal which would largely benefit the local farmers by considerably increasing their income. Adequate investment in this sector as well as for finance under irrigational activities by the banks is desired to boost the static agriculture sector and contribute to doubling of farmers' income (**Action: All Banks**)
- c) **Dairy Farming :** Hon'ble Chief Minister informed the House regarding the proposed Dairy Scheme for increase in milk production. The scheme envisages setting up of 5000 high breed cow units to be procured from Haryana in phases and the milk estimated to be around 80000 litre per day will be sold to Gomti Dairy through a supply chain. The scheme will have provision for interest subvention by State Govt. Sri Pradhan lauded the proactive steps taken by the Chief Manager and exhorted the banks to fully participate in the program which offers both backward & forward loan linkage scope.

- d) **Others** : Regarding fishery loans ,it was opined that though 36 out of the 260 sponsored cases has been sanctioned, the process is to be stepped up and completed before onset of monsoon season.

Director of Agriculture pointed out the difference in farm credit data as available with the department and as reported by the banks. He also mentioned about the discrepancy in ticket size of KCC loans and also about some instances where scale of finance has not been followed. Sri Pradhan suggested that the Sub Committees under SLBC should sit regularly and sort out such operational issues. **(Action. SLBC)**

Shri K Venugopal, DGM NABARD, informed the House that NABARD is willing to provide training to Bank officers (including newly joined Officers) to sensitize them towards proper processing of loan applications under Dairy Entrepreneurship and Development Scheme, SHG Financing, KCC, etc. among others.

5. **MSME** : Sri Dohare informed the House about the ongoing SAMVEG- MSME Outreach Program with identification of Tripura West & Sepahijola as Aspiration Districts. The State has been able to attain the target with satisfactory performance in MUDRA loans. Going forward it is expected that the program will galvanize the MSME sector in all the districts.

Performance in the following schematic loans under MSME were also discussed.

Stand Up India: After reviewing the performance of Banks under Stand Up India, the House was of the view that there is a need to promote the scheme at various forums for generating awareness among the entrepreneurs. Shri Pradhan opined that due to rigid eligibility norms momentum in this scheme has not picked up. Shri Anand Prakash Srivastava, GM SIDBI proposed an awareness workshop in the month of January 2019 to be organized by SIDBI for Banks/ Financial Institutions to sensitize their personnel on processing applications made under Stand up India. **(Action: All Banks and NABARD)**

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Shri M Dohare informed the house that the state of Tripura ranks second among the north-eastern states in Mudra loan performance in the current fiscal, with Assam heading the list. He urged all Banks to step up disbursements under Mudra Yojana to achieve the state target by focusing their efforts in financing activities with huge potential as identified by the State Govt.

PMMY: He also highlighted the Banks performance under MUDRA covering 1.23 lakhs beneficiaries during the period up to September 2018 and hoped that the trend will continue and the banks will be able to surpass the last year performance. **(Action: All Banks)**

PMEGP & Swabalamban Loans : It was observed that the disposal of the proposals under these schemes needs acceleration and the banks should arrange for sanction of the eligible proposals at an early date with diligence.

6. **Digital Banking Modes:** The House reviewed the status of ATMs and PoS machines operational in the State and observed the need to further increase penetration of digital banking modes in the State to promote a less cash dependent society. Issues relating to attempts of Bank frauds through unsolicited calls to customers by fraudsters/ other cyber crimes were discussed. The State Govt advised Banks to aggressively promote awareness about such issues among the general public and asked for prompt handling of customer complaints in this regard. It was suggested by MD & CEO of UBI that the matter should be extensively covered by Financial Literacy Camps also. **(Action: All Banks)**

7. **Social Security Schemes (PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY):** Shri M Dohare, informed the House that as per the decision of the last SLBC meeting, Banks are well on course to ensure the target of 70% coverage of all PMJDY account holders under PMSBY by March 2019. He also mentioned that Tripura Gramin Bank had been awarded by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority in New Delhi for commendable performance in APY enrollment.

On the issue of claim settlements under PMSBY and PMJJBY, the house noted that a considerable percentage of lodged claims were under process and there was little improvement in the scenario since the last quarter. Representatives of LIC and NICL updated the status regarding claims of PMJJBY and PMSBY respectively and assured timely settlement of claims on priority basis. In addition, it was mentioned that settlement claims under PMSBY & PMJJBY for Tripura Gramin Bank and Tripura State Co-Operative Bank are processed by NICL and LIC respectively at their nodal offices in Agartala, whereas the claims from all other Banks are processed at the respective central offices of the concerned insurance companies. The House was of the view that financial awareness regarding claim of insurance under these schemes should be promoted among the populace to ensure timely submission of claim request to Banks for taking up with LIC and NICL for settlement under PMJJBY and PMSBY respectively. **(Action: All Banks, LIC & NICL)**

8. **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY):** After reviewing the progress of loans under PMAY, the house was of the view that more can be done in financing loans under this scheme. Shri Manoj Kumar, Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Power, Govt of Tripura, advised banks to increase their portfolio under PMAY scheme, by sanctioning fresh loans as well as identifying existing borrowers from the cut-off date who can be brought under the ambit of PMAY. He also requested that Banks should increase the numbers of subsidy claims under this scheme to pass on the benefits to the borrowers. Shri Pradhan suggested that while all new eligible loans are to be covered under PMAY, the persisting portal & subsidy related issues are to be addressed through sitting with NHB/HUDCO **(Action: All Banks)**

9. **Chief Minister's B.Ed Anuprerana Yojana:** Participating Banks have forwarded 1360 proposals to Higher Education Dept, Govt of Tripura under this scheme for approval. These proposals, after due deliberation by State Govt officials, have been accorded approval and the list of approved applicants will be forwarded to respective Banks. All Banks were requested to sanction and disburse loans under this scheme expeditiously.

However, Shri Kumar Alok, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister stated that pursuant to the meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 27.12.2018 and as per the decision of the State Govt, the criteria of NAAC/QCI accreditation under the scheme has been relaxed for students admitted to the B.Ed course in the current academic year. All Banks are to take note of the same and proceed accordingly. Department has also been requested to notify the same. **(Action: All Banks)**

10. SHG Finance : During the discussion it was observed that in few instances loans have not been sanctioned in time. Also, the NRLM portal data has not been updated regularly. There has also been wrong data entry relating to Scheme codes in the system. It is advised that the data under erstwhile SGSY and the current NRLM for SHGs should be segregated for proper analysis. The House was unanimous in opinion regarding the success of SHGs in repayment of the loans. **(Action:All Banks)**

11. Loans to Weaker Sections : Shri M.L. Dey, Secretary, SC, OBC & Minorities Dept, Govt of Tripura, suggested that Banks should increase the share of financial assistance provided to SC/ST/OBCs, other minority communities and weaker sections as against their total advance portfolio for upliftment of these traditionally deprived sections of the society. He also requested all banks to adopt villages with a high percentage of SC/ST/OBC demographic under Adarsh Gram Yojana for their development by bringing them under the formal credit system. **(Action: All Banks, NABARD)**

12. Achieving targets under ACP and Flagship Schemes: Shri L.K. Gupta, Chief Secretary, Govt of Tripura, advised Banks to complete disbursements as earmarked under ACP and other flagship schemes within February 2019, so that borrower applicants are not inconvenienced in the likely scenario of the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct put into effect for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. **(Action: All Banks)**

13. Issues related to payment of dues to security personnel deployed in guarding Currency Chests: Shri L.K. Gupta, Chief Secretary, Govt of Tripura, brought to the attention of the house, the issues pertaining to outstanding bills related to payment of security personnel deployed in guarding of currency chests, specifically the dues dating back 15-20 years. Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, MD & CEO, United bank of India, proposed the formation of a sub-committee of SLBC to look into the various issues related to these outstanding dues and deciding the future course of action. Shri L.K. Gupta suggested that all concerned Banks should immediately clear any outstanding dues of the current fiscal year, pertaining to payment of security personnel and ensure strict adherence to time bound clearance of such bills as and when it may arise.

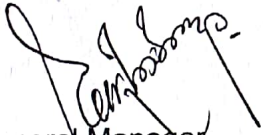
(Action: All Banks maintaining Currency Chests in Tripura, State Govt)

Sri Deb observed that for the Banks to finance quality loans under priority sector, it is imperative for Branch officials to source projects through field visits and by developing a good rapport among people of the area. This would help in proper assessment of credit absorption capacity and credit worthiness of the borrower applicants and the corresponding credit need for the business units. He cited the example of Bandhan Bank.

Shri Deb also advised the Banks to synchronize their respective business targets in line with the State Government's policies, so that Banks can finance projects in the sectors relevant to the development of the State as envisaged by the authorities. He advocated frequent field visits by branch functionaries and maintaining rapport with the public .

Shri Deb also observed that there is a need for the Banks to focus on certain identified schemes for providing financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries such as KCC, fishery loans, PMEGP, Swavalamban, smoke house units for rubber processing, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, as well as social security schemes like Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, among others for all round development of the State. He suggested increase in the targets under subsequent Annual Credit Plans in the key potential areas to maximize the credit disbursements to eligible borrowers and contribute to the economic growth of the State.

Conclusion : Summing up the discussion, Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, MD & CEO, United Bank of India, thanked Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Tripura for his august presence in the SLBC meeting. He expressed sincere gratitude to Shri Deb for his keen participation and providing guidance to the SLBC to propel the State towards all round growth .Shri Pradhan assured for functioning of the banks in line with the priorities of State Govt and charting a common road map.He heartily thanked Shri L.K. Gupta, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura, Dr. G.S.G. Ayyanger, Addl. Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Industries & Commerce, Shri Manoj Kumar, Principal Secretary, Urban Dev. Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, Shri Kumar Alok, Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura, & other dignitaries from Govt. of Tripura, RBI, NABARD, SIDBI, Banks and other agencies for their kind presence and active participation in 127th Meeting of SLBC. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chairs by Shri M Dohare, DGM & CRM, United Bank of India.


General Manager
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Convener of SLBC, Tripura