

SLBC



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पश्चिमबङ्ग सरकार
महाकরণ
कलकता - ९०० ००१

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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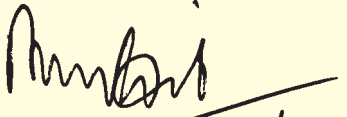
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M E S S A G E

I am delighted to learn that the United Bank of India is going to bring out a souvenir on the occasion of the One-hundredth meeting of the State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) to be held on September 12, 2007.

As the Lead Bank of the State and the Convenor of the SLBC, the United Bank of India has been playing a crucial role in expanding the network of bank branches in the State and extending credit to the rural poor. It is true that since the commencement of banking reforms in 1992-93, the entire banking landscape has changed and in terms of range of services and products, Indian banking has come of age. It is also true that since the formation of SLBC in October, 1976, bank branches have proliferated, the deposits have grown phenomenally, the flow of credit to SC and ST communities, other weaker sections and women has increased substantially. There is still an urgent need to further accelerate the pace of priority sector lending to hasten the process of financial inclusion. The Independent Commission on Banking and Financial Policy, in its report submitted in September, 2006 has come out with a "Blueprint for an Alternative Banking Polity" which emphasizes micro-financing as the key to effective social banking. The Blueprint rightly talks of reinforcement of close coordination between district planning authorities, Panchayati Raj Institutions and banks operating in rural areas and effectively linking Self-Help Groups to bank credit. In the days to come, the SLBC should work towards achieving this objective and the United Bank of India should play a leading role in this regard.

I wish the 100th SLBC meeting success.


(A.K. Deb)
Chief Secretary
27/8/07
Government of West Bengal