

राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर्स समिति, पश्चिम बंगाल : STATE LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE , WEST BENGAL

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Ref. No: SLBC/WB/Sub Committee Meeting on FI / 153 /2021

Date: 20.09.2021

1) The Members of the Sub Committee on Financial Inclusion

Re: Minutes of the SLBC Sub-Committee meeting on Financial Inclusion held on 17.09.2021.

A meeting of SLBC sub-committee on Financial Inclusion was held on 17.09.2021 to review the progress made in Financial Inclusion & Financial Literacy as on 30.06.2021 in the state of West Bengal. The meeting was participated through VC by Sri Parthasarathi Datta, Dy. Director, Institutional Finance, GoWB, Smt. Mary Lianlunkim Deng General Manager, RBI; Smt. Shubha Modi, DGM, RBI; Dr. Ashish Dongare, PFRDA and representatives of major member Banks.

Sri Sakshi Gopal Saha, General Manager, SLBC West Bengal, welcomed all the participants in the meeting and briefly narrated about the developments occurred in Financial Inclusion & Financial Literacy as on 30.06.2021.

The major points of discussions along with the action points emerged during the sub-committee meeting are as given below:

1. Progress made in Social Security Schemes (PMJDY, PMSBY & APY etc.):

Sri S. G Saha appraised the house that out of total 40783102 no of PMJDY accounts, 49.84% accounts have been enrolled under Social Security schemes as on 30.06.2021 and 2525524 no of accounts are zero balance account. Out of total PMJDY accounts, 3947227 no are enrolled under PMJJBY, 13965101 no are enrolled under PMSBY and 2414448 no are enrolled under APY.

Smt. M. L. Deng narrated the house that out of all PMJDY Accounts, PMSBY has a coverage of 34.24% (54.24% national), PMJJBY has a coverage of 9.68% (23.97% national) and APY has a coverage of 5.92% (7% national). She requested all member banks to put their best effort maximum number of customers in 3 social security schemes in order to achieve at least the national average.

Dr. Ashish Dongare, PFRDA, highlighted that, the performance of West Bengal state as a whole in APY campaign remains very impressive for last few years and has not only achieved its annual target but also surpassed the target in all the years. However, enrolment % has remained below the national target level. He requested all member banks to focus on SHG members in assistance with SRLM of Panchayat & Rural Development Deptt to achieve the target. He also requested to focus in Kolkata district which is having maximum number of branches so far branch network is concerned from where maximum and praiseworthy number of APY enrolment can be generated.

Smt. S Modi requested to formulate a monitorable action plan with predefined targets in order to increase the coverage under these schemes. Sri S. G. Saha noted the same and assured the house that the same will be taken care of.

(Action Point 1: Member banks & SLBC)

2. Financial Literacy Camps & Awareness Drive:

Sri S.G.Saha narrated that during this quarter 95 camps have been organised by FLC where 3157 candidates attended. Though FLCs are required to conduct 7 camps per month, due to 2nd wave of



Covid-19 pandemic the progress is hampered. However, he requested the member banks to strive their best to organise more camps by their FLCs.

Smt. M. L. Deng informed the house that FLCs in Birbhum, Purba Medinipur, Howrah and Paschim Medinipur showed good performance but some districts viz: Alipurduar, Jhargram, Kalimpong, and Paschim Burdwan do not have any FLC. Sri S. G. Saha narrated that these districts have newly formed and have not received any FLC code which may be a reason behind showing no FLCs in these districts. But FLCs in these districts are very much active and arranging camps at regular interval. Smt. M. L. Deng requested the controlling banks of these FLCs to get the FLC code and undertake camps.

Smt. S. Modi suggested member banks to explore innovative ways, during this pandemic situation, for conducting Financial Literacy Camps so that the FLC target of rural branches and FL Counsellors can be achieved.

Sri Kamlesh Kumar, GM NABARD briefly enumerated the benefits of Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) for better synergy in fulfilling the objective of Financial Inclusion and requested banks to take prior approval from NABARD to seek admissible grant assistance from FIF in respect of identified schemes/activities.

(Action Point 2: SBI, CBI, PNB & Member banks)

3. Expanding & Deepening of Digital Payments Ecosystem (Incl. Payment Banks etc.):

Sri S. G. Saha appraised the house that, in terms of RBI directives, SLBC formed the Sub-Committee on Digital Payments and adopted the district of Nadia as Digital District with the objective of making it 100% digitally enabled within 31.03.2021. As on 30.06.2021, 93.27% of SB A/c's in the district are covered with at least one digital mode, whereas in case of Current A/c's the achievement stands at 93.66%. In addition, in case of on boarding of merchants through POS/QR, the district has achieved 99% of its annual target as on 31.03.2021. Smt. M. L. Deng requested to achieve 100% target in both case i.e. Savings account & Current account.

Sri S. G. Saha informed the house that many job card holders, LTI personnel, old age pensioners are maintaining a good number of accounts in rural branches, who are not well acquainted with digitization. Again, a number of borrowers are there who don't want to avail such facilities in spite of repeated request from branch people. So 100% digitization is a very tough task for bankers.

Smt. S. Modi acknowledged this genuine problem and requested SLBC to take data on ineligible number of accounts from member banks to access the ground reality and same may be excluded from the report onwards in order to get a good percentage. She also requested for adoption of Howrah district to extend expanding and deepening of digital payments ecosystem. Sri S. G. Saha appraised the house that the same will be adopted in the next Special SLBC on Financial Inclusion.

(Action Point 3: Member Banks)

4. Preparedness over ensuing special SLBC meeting on Financial Inclusion:

Sri S.G. Saha appraised the house that data collection from all member banks have been completed and the compiled data have been shared with RBI for their necessary guidance. In the last week of September' 2021, the meeting will be convened.

5. Miscellaneous:

i) Smt. M. L. Deng informed the house that West Bengal has 8.54 bank branches per lakh of population vs 10.16 all India average; 78 BC outlets per lakh population vs national average of 130 BC outlets per lakh population; 11.82 ATMs per lakh of population vs 17.25 all India average. She requested SLBC to take care of that to reach to atleast national level. Sri. S. G. Saha appraised the house that in West Bengal, as per Jan Dhan Darshak app, there is no unbanked area in west Bengal. However, opening of BC outlets or ATMs totally depends upon individual banks' discretion.


ii) Smt. M. L. Deng requested for opening of RSETIs in Alipurduar, Paschim Burdwan, Kalimpong, Kolkata and Jhargram. Sri Subrata Hazra, AGM, SBI informed the house that they have already



approached to district authority of Paschim Burdwan & Kalimpong for providing a rented house to start the RSETI and also a suitable land for construction of building thereon.

iii) Smt. S. Modi briefly narrated that 58 number of Centres for Financial Literacy are to be set up in West Bengal by CRISIL Foundation which will be sponsored by Punjab National Bank (47), UCO Bank (6) and Central Bank of India (5) before December 1, 2021. At present CRISIL Foundation has signed MOU with all three banks and has either applied for or is in advance stage of applying for CAPEX and OPEX advance. She requested LDMS to provide handholding support to CRISIL Foundation in initial setting up of CFLs and to invite Centre level staff of CFLs in BLBC meetings for better coordination with bankers.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair & other participants.


(Sri Nabin Kumar Dash)
Chief General Manager &
Convener, SLBC West Bengal



List of participants in FI Sub Committee Meeting held on 17.09.2021

S No.	Name	Designation	Organisation
1	Sri Parthsarathi Datta	Deputy Director	Institutional Finance, GoWB
2	Sri Kamalesh Kumar	General Manager	NABARD
3	Smt. Mary Lianlunkim Deng	General Manager	RBI
4	Sri Sakshi Gopal Saha	General Manager	SLBC, West Bengal
5	Smt. Shubha Modi	Dy General Manager	RBI
6	Dr. Ashish Dongare	Asst. General Manager	PFRDA
7	Sri Asim Kumar Mishra	Asstt. General Manager	UCO Bank
8	Sri Subrata Hazra	Asstt. General Manager	State Bank of India
9	Sri Valerian Castelino	Deputy Zonal Head	Union Bank of India
10	Sri Sumit Basu	Chief Manager	SLBC, West Bengal
11	Sri Santanu Banerjee	Divisional Manager	Canara Bank
12	Sri Subrata Roy	Chief Manager	Indian Bank
13	Sri Dipak Sahoo	Chief Manager	Bank of Baroda
14	Sri Abhijit Mandal	Senior Manager	Bank of India
15	Sri Nagendra Singh Tewatiya	Manager	Punjab National Bank
16	Smt. Neha Kumari	Manager	Central Bank of India
17	Sri Tathagat Moitra	Assistant Manager	BGVB
18	Sri Dipesh Chakraborty	Asstt. Vice President	Axis Bank
19	Sri Saikat Chatterjee	Regional Head	Bandhan Bank
20	Sri Vivek Madhogaria	Asstt. Vice President	Bandhan Bank
21	Sri Sourav Rajguru	Regional Chief Manager	ICICI Bank

