**Certificate Examination for Small Finance Banks**

RBI Notifications during the period 1st Jan 2019 to 30th June 2019

RBI/2018-19/164 DBR.BP.BC.No.34/21.04.098/2018-19 April 4, 2019

All Scheduled Commercial Banks(Excluding RRBs) & Small Finance Banks

**Basel III Framework on Liquidity Standards - Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR),
Liquidity Risk Monitoring Tools and LCR Disclosure Standards**

Please refer to our [circular DBR.BP.BC.No.4/21.04.098/2018-19 dated September 27, 2018](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11380&Mode=0), other associated circulars on the captioned subject and para I (1) of the [First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy 2019-20 dated April 4, 2019](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=46724).

2. Presently, the assets allowed as Level 1 High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLAs) for the purpose of computing the LCR of banks, inter alia, include (a) Government securities in excess of the minimum SLR requirement and, (b) within the mandatory SLR requirement, Government securities to the extent allowed by RBI under (i) Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) [presently 2 per cent of the bank's NDTL] and (ii) Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR) [presently 13 per cent of the bank's NDTL].

3. It has been decided to permit banks to reckon an additional 2.0 percent Government securities held by them under FALLCR within the mandatory SLR requirement as Level 1 HQLA for the purpose of computing LCR, in a phased manner, as under:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Effective Date** | **FALLCR(per cent of NDTL)** | **Total HQLA carve out from SLR(per cent of NDTL)** |
| April 4, 2019 | 13.50 | 15.50 |
| August 1, 2019 | 14.00 | 16.00 |
| December 1, 2019 | 14.50 | 16.50 |
| April 1, 2020 | 15.00 | 17.00 |

4. For the purpose of LCR, banks shall continue to value such government securities reckoned as HQLA at an amount not greater than their current market value (irrespective of the category under which the security is held, i.e., HTM, AFS or HFT).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-19/126 DBR.BP.BC.No.25/21.06.001/2018-19 February 22, 2019

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding Regional Rural Banks), Small Finance Banks

**Risk Weights for exposures to NBFCs**

Please refer to para 5.8 and para 5.13.5 of the Master Circular on Basel III Capital Regulation dated July 1, 2015. At present claims on rated as well as unrated Non-deposit Taking Systemically Important Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC-ND-SI), other than Asset Finance Companies (AFCs), Non-Banking Financial Companies – Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFCs-IFC), and Non-banking Financial Companies – Infrastructure Development Funds (NBFCs-IDF), have to be uniformly risk weighted at 100%. Exposures to AFCs, NBFCs – IFC, NBFCs – IDF and other NBFCs which are not NBFC-ND-SI, are risk weighted as per the ratings assigned by the rating agencies accredited by the Reserve Bank of India.

2. As indicated in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated February 07, 2019, it has been decided that exposures to all NBFCs, excluding Core Investment Companies (CICs), will be risk weighted as per the ratings assigned by the rating agencies registered with SEBI and accredited by the Reserve Bank of India, in a manner similar to that of corporates as prescribed under para 5.8.1 of the Master Circular DBR.No.BP.BC.1/21.06.201/2015-16 dated July 1, 2015 on Basel III Capital Regulations read with Circular DBR.No.BP.BC.6/21.06.001/2016-17 dated August 25, 2016 on “Review of Prudential Norms –Risk Weights for Exposures to Corporates, AFCs and NBFC-IFCs” and Mailbox Clarification dated December 29, 2017. Exposures to CICs, rated as well as unrated, will continue to be risk-weighted at 100%.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-19/128 DBR.DIR.BC.No.27/13.03.00/2018-19 February 22, 2019

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) All Small Finance Banks

**Review of Instructions on Bulk Deposit**

In terms of extant instructions, banks have been given discretion to offer differential rate of interest on the bulk deposits as per their requirements and Asset-Liability Management (ALM) projections.

2. In this connection, as announced in the ‘Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies’ of the Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement dated February 07, 2019, it has been decided to revise the definition of ‘bulk deposits’ and provide operational freedom to banks in raising these deposits.

3. Accordingly, instructions contained in Master Directions on Interest Rate on Deposits issued vide DBR.Dir.No.84/13.03.00/2015-16 dated March 03, 2016 stand amended as under:

3.1 The existing paragraph No. 3(a)(i)(i) on bulk deposit of the aforesaid Master Direction stands replaced as under:

(i) Single Rupee term deposits of Rupees two crore and above for Scheduled commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural banks) and Small Finance Banks.

3.2 In the existing paragraph No. 4(c), the following shall be added:

The banks shall maintain the bulk deposit interest rate card in their Core banking system to facilitate supervisory review.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-2019/208 DPSS (CO) RPPD No.2557/04.03.01/2018-19 June 11, 2019

The Chairman / Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer of member banks participating in RTGS and / or NEFT

**National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) systems – Waiver of charges**

Please refer to paragraph No. 8 of the Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies for 2019-20 dated June 06, 2019 on the above subject. A reference is also invited to the following circulars:

1. DPSS (CO) EPPD No. 2649/04.03.01/2010-11 dated June 02, 2011 on ‘Retail Electronic Payment Systems – Levy of Processing Charges’; and
2. DPSS (CO) RTGS No.1926/04.04.002/2015-16 dated February 4, 2016 on ‘RTGS service charges for members and customers - Rationalisation’.

2. The Reserve Bank has since reviewed the various charges levied by it on the member banks for transactions processed in the RTGS and NEFT systems. In order to provide an impetus to digital funds movement, it has been decided that with effect from July 1, 2019, processing charges and time varying charges levied on banks by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for outward transactions undertaken using the RTGS system, as also the processing charges levied by RBI for transactions processed in NEFT system will be waived by the Reserve Bank.

3. The banks are advised to pass on the benefits to their customers for undertaking transactions using the RTGS and NEFT systems with effect from July 1, 2019.

4. This directive is issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-19/189DPSS (CO) RTGS No. 2488/04.04.016/2018-19 May 28, 2019

The Chairman/Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of member banks participating in RTGS

**Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System – Extension of Timings for Customer Transactions**

A reference is invited to [circular DPSS (CO) RTGS No.492/04.04.002/2015-16 dated September 1, 2015](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10012&Mode=0) on ‘Changes in RTGS time window’ and [circular DPSS (CO) RTGS No.1926/04.04.002/2015-16 dated February 4, 2016](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10260&Mode=0) on ‘RTGS service charges for members and customers - Rationalisation’.

2. It has been decided to extend the timings for customer transactions (initial cut-off) in RTGS from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Accordingly, the RTGS time window with effect from **June 01, 2019** will be as under:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sr. No.** | **Event** | **Time** |
| 1. | Open for Business | 08:00 hours |
| 2. | Customer transactions (Initial Cut-off) | 18:00 hours |
| 3. | Inter-bank transactions (Final Cut-off) | 19:45 hours |
| 4. | IDL Reversal | 19:45 hours - 20:00 hours |
| 5. | End of Day | 20:00 hours |

3. The time-varying charges for transactions in RTGS from 13:00 hours to 18:00 hours shall be ₹ 5 per outward transaction. The time varying charges structure is as under:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sr. No.** | **Time of Settlement at the Reserve Bank of India** | **Time varying charge per outward transaction(in addition to flat processing charge) (exclusive of tax, if any)** |
| **From** | **To** |
| 1 | 08:00 hours | 11:00 hours | Nil |
| 2 | After 11:00 hours | 13:00 hours | ₹ 2.00 |
| 3 | After 13:00 hours | 18:00 hours | ₹ 5.00 |
| 4 | After 18:00 hours |   | ₹ 10.00 |

4. This directive is issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-19/138 DPSS.CO.OD.No.1916/06.07.011/2018-19 March 7, 2019

**White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India – Review of Guidelines**

Please refer to our circulars DPSS.CO.PD.No.2298/02.10.002/2011-2012 dated June 20, 2012, DPSS.CO.PD.No.1088/02.10.003/2013-14 dated November 14, 2013, DPSS.CO.PD.No.1025/02.10.003/2014-2015 dated December 5, 2014 and DPSS.CO.PD.No.1621/02.10.002/2016-17 dated December 30, 2016 prescribing the guidelines / instructions for setting up, owning and operating White Label ATMs (WLAs) in the country.

2. On a review of operations of WLAs and representations received from stakeholders, as also to enhance the viability of WLAs, it has been decided to allow the WLA Operators to : -

1. buy wholesale cash, above a threshold of 1 lakh pieces (and in multiples thereof) of any denomination, directly from the Reserve Bank (Issue Offices) and Currency Chests against full payment.
2. source cash from any scheduled bank, including Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.
3. offer bill payment and Interoperable Cash Deposit services, subject to technical feasibility and certification by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
4. display advertisements pertaining to non-financial products / services anywhere within the WLA premises, including the WLA screen, except the main signboard. It shall be ensured that the advertisements running on the screen disappear once the customer commences a transaction.

3. The permission to WLA Operators to source cash from retail outlets, accorded vide circular DPSS.CO.PD.No.1621/02.10.002/2016-17 dated December 30, 2016, stands repealed.

4. Further, banks may issue co-branded ATM cards in partnership with the authorised WLA Operators and may extend the benefit of ‘on-us’ transactions to their WLAs as well.

5. All guidelines, safeguards, standards and control measures applicable to banks relating to (a) currency handling, and (b) cyber-security framework for ATMs, shall also be applicable to the WLA Operators.

6. This directive is issued under Section 10(2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-19/206 DBR.LEG.BC.No.47/09.07.005/2018-19 June 10, 2019

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (including RRBs), All Payments Banks, All Small Finance Banks, All Local Area Banks

**Financial Inclusion- Access to Banking Services – Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA)**

Please refer to our circular DBOD.No.Leg.BC.35/09.07.005/2012-13 dated August 10, 2012 on the captioned subject.

2. The Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) Account was designed as a savings account which will offer certain minimum facilities, free of charge, to the holders of such accounts. In the interest of better customer service, it has been decided to make certain changes in the facilities associated with the account. Banks are now advised to offer the following basic minimum facilities in the BSBD Account, free of charge, without any requirement of minimum balance.

1. The deposit of cash at bank branch as well as ATMs/CDMs
2. Receipt/ credit of money through any electronic channel or by means of deposit /collection of cheques drawn by Central/State Government agencies and departments
3. No limit on number and value of deposits that can be made in a month
4. Minimum of four withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawals
5. ATM Card or ATM-cum-Debit Card

The BSBD Account shall be considered a normal banking service available to all.

3. Banks are free to provide additional value-added services, including issue of cheque book, beyond the above minimum facilities, which may/may not be priced (in non-discriminatory manner) subject to disclosure. The availment of such additional services shall be at the option of the customers. However, while offering such additional services, banks shall not require the customer to maintain a minimum balance. Offering such additional services will not make it a non-BSBD Account, so long as the prescribed minimum services are provided free of charge.

4. The holders of BSBD Account will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank. If a customer has any other existing savings bank deposit account in that bank, he/she will be required to close it within 30 days from the date of opening a BSBD Account. Further, before opening a BSBD account, a bank should take a declaration from the customer that he/she is not having a BSBD account in any other bank.

5. The BSBD Account shall be subject to RBI instructions on KYC/AML for opening of bank accounts issued vide Master Direction DBR.AML.BC.No.81/14.01.001/2015-16 dated February 25, 2016 on ‘Master Direction - Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016’, as amended from time to time.

6. The instructions issued on free transactions available for normal savings bank account in own-bank/other bank ATMs vide circulars DPSS.CO.PD.No.316/02.10.002/2014-15 dated August 14, 2014 and DPSS.CO.PD.No.659/02.10.002/2014-15 dated October 10, 2014 are not applicable to BSBD accounts. The minimum free withdrawals available to the BSBD Account holders can be made at all ATMs (own-bank/other bank ATMs).

7. This circular supersedes earlier instructions issued vide circulars DBOD.No. Leg.BC.35/09.07.005/2012-13 dated August 10, 2012 on ‘Financial Inclusion- Access to Banking Services–Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account’ and DBOD.No. Leg.BC.52/09.07.005/2013-14 dated September 11, 2013 on ‘Financial Inclusion- Access to Banking Services – Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) – FAQs’.

8. These instructions will come into force with effect from July 1, 2019. Banks are advised to frame Board approved policy/ operational guidelines in this regard.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RBI/2018-19/118 FIDD.CO.FSD.BC.No.13/05.05.010/2018-19 February 7, 2019

The Chairman/Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer All Scheduled Commercial Banks (including RRBs and SFBs)

**Credit Flow to Agriculture- Collateral free agricultural loans**

Please refer to paragraph 13 of the Statement on Development and Regulatory Policies of the Sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2018-19 released on February 7, 2019.

2. In this connection, please refer to our circular RPCD.PLFS.BC.No 85/05.04.02/2009-10 dated June 18, 2010 on the captioned subject.

3. Keeping in view the overall inflation and rise in agriculture input cost over the years since 2010, it has been decided to raise the limit for collateral free agricultural loans from the existing level of ₹1 lakh to ₹1.6 lakh. Accordingly, banks may waive margin requirements for agricultural loans upto ₹1.6 lakh.

4. You are requested to give adequate publicity to this change and instruct your controlling offices/branches to implement the same immediately.

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

RBI/2018-19/112 FIDD.CO.FSD.BC.12/05.05.010/2018-19 February 04, 2019

The Chairman/Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer All Scheduled Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks and excluding RRBs)

**Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme: Working Capital for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries**

Please refer to our Master Circular - Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme issued vide FIDD.CO.FSD.BC.No.6/05.05.010/2018-19 dated July 4, 2018. It has been decided to extend KCC facility to Animal Husbandry farmers and Fisheries for their working capital requirements. The guidelines are given in the Annex.

2. Banks are advised to implement the Scheme as per the guidelines.

**Annex**

**1. Introduction**

In the Budget 2018-19 the Union Government had announced their decision to extend the facilities of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to Animal Husbandry farmers and Fisheries (AH & F) to help them meet their working capital requirements. In pursuance of the said budget announcement the matter has been examined, and in consultation with all stakeholders, it has been decided to extend the KCC facility for working capital requirement for activities related to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

**2. Purpose:**

The KCC facility will meet the short term credit requirements of rearing of animals, birds, fish, shrimp, other aquatic organisms, capture of fish.

**3. Eligibility:**

The criteria for eligible beneficiaries under KCC for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries will be as under:

3.1 Fishery

3.1.1 Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

3.1.1.1 Fishers, Fish Farmers (individual & groups/ partners/ share croppers/ tenant farmers), Self Help Groups, Joint Liability Groups and women groups.

3.1.1.2 The beneficiaries must own or lease any of the fisheries related activities such as pond, tank, open water bodies, raceway, hatchery, rearing unit, possess necessary license for fish farming and fishing related activities, and any other State specific fisheries and allied activities.

3.1.2 Marine Fisheries

3.1.2.1 Beneficiaries listed at 3.1.1.1 above, who own or lease registered fishing vessel/boat, possess necessary fishing license/permission for fishing in estuary and sea, fish farming/mariculture activities in estuaries and open sea and any other State specific fisheries and allied activities.

3.2 Poultry and small ruminant

3.2.1 Farmers, poultry farmers either individual or joint borrower, Joint Liability Groups or Self Help Groups including tenant farmer of sheep/goats/pigs/poultry/birds/rabbit and having owned/rented/leased sheds.

3.3 Dairy

3.3.1 Farmers and Dairy farmers either individual or joint borrower, Joint Liability Groups or Self Help Groups including tenant farmers having owned /rented/leased sheds.

**4. Scale of Finance**

4.1 The scale of finance will be fixed by the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) based on local cost worked out on the basis of per acre/per unit/per animal/per bird etc.

4.2 The working capital components in fisheries, under the scale of finance, may includerecurring cost towards seed, feed, organic and inorganic fertilisers, lime/other soil conditioners, harvesting and marketing charges, fuel/electricity charges, labour, lease rent (if leased water area) etc. For capture fisheries, working capital may include the cost of fuel, ice, labouring charges, mooring/landing charges etc. may form part of the scale of finance.

4.3 The working capital components in Animal Husbandry, under the scale of finance, may include recurring cost towards feeding, veterinary aid, labour, water and electricity supply.

4.4 The maximum period for assessment of working capital requirement may be based on the cash flow statement or completion of one production cycle.

4.5 Fisheries and Animal Husbandry experts of the Govt. may be made members of the DLTC for giving technical inputs for assessing the cash credit requirement.

4.6 Progressive entrepreneurs of livestock/fisheries sector may also be included in the DLTC for providing field level inputs while assessing the working capital requirements.

**5. General Guidelines**

5.1 *Drawing power:* The drawing power will be worked on the basis of the latest valuation of stocks, receivables and/or cash flows as per terms of sanction.

5.2 *Repayment:* The loan will be in the nature of a revolving cash credit limit. Repayment will be fixed as per the cash flow/income generation pattern of the activity undertaken by the borrower.

5.3 *Monitoring of end use:* The account/smart card for the loan issued under the scheme is to be maintained/issued separately from the existing KCC loan to monitor the utilization limit. The monitoring of end use of funds will be in line with other loans (KCC on crop loans included) viz., field visits to the site of unit/project to be carried out by the branch officials for checking the progress of the unit. Banks will periodically review the facility and continue/withdraw/scale down the facility based on the performance of the borrower.

5.4 *Prudential norms:* The extant prudential norms on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning[1](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11462&Mode=0#F1) on allied activities will apply.

5.5 *Rate of Interest*: The rate of interest will be as stipulated in DBR’s [Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Advances) Directions 2016](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=10295).

5.6 All other guidelines laid down in Kisan Credit Card Scheme for short term crop loans will be applicable mutatis mutandis.

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

RBI/2018-19/179 FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.18 /04.09.01/2018-19 May 6, 2019

The Chairman/MD & CEO All Regional Rural Banks/**All Small Finance Banks**

**Priority Sector Lending – Targets and Classification**

Please refer to Para 10 of the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies of the First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2019-20 dated April 4, 2019 and Para 9 of Master Direction – Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) - Priority Sector Lending – Targets and Classification dated July 7, 2016/Para 5 of the Compendium for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) – Priority Sector Lending – Targets & Classification dated July 6, 2017, prescribing eligibility criteria of housing loans for classification under priority sector.

2. In terms of the above Master Direction for RRBs, loans to individuals up to ₹ 20 lakh for purchase/construction of a dwelling unit per family provided the overall cost of the dwelling unit does not exceed ₹ 25 lakh are eligible to be classified under priority sector. In terms of the Compendium for SFBs, loans to individuals up to ₹ 28 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and ₹ 20 lakh in other centres, are eligible to be classified under priority sector, provided that the cost of dwelling unit does not exceed ₹ 35 lakh and ₹ 25 lakh, respectively.

3. In order to bring the RRBs and SFBs at a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks, it has now been decided to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending. Accordingly, in respect of RRBs and SFBs, housing loans to individuals up to ₹ 35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and ₹ 25 lakh in other centres, provided the overall cost of the dwelling unit in the metropolitan centres and at other centres does not exceed ₹ 45 lakh and ₹ 30 lakh, respectively will be eligible for classification under Priority Sector Lending.

4. Furthermore, the existing family income limit of ₹ 2 lakh per annum, prescribed under Para 9.4 of the above Master Direction for RRBs/Para 5.4 of the Compendium for SFBs, eligible for loans to housing projects exclusively for the purpose of construction of houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG), is revised to ₹ 3 lakh per annum for EWS and ₹ 6 lakh per annum for LIG, in alignment with the income criteria specified under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

5. Accordingly, the RRBs/SFBs are allowed to reckon their outstanding portfolio of housing loans meeting the revised criteria for classification under priority sector lending from the date of this circular.

6. All other terms and conditions specified under the Master Direction/Compendium shall remain unchanged.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_