**MICROFINANCE\_ RBI Notifications Jan to June 2021**

**New Definition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

**RBI/2021-2022/63 FIDD.MSME & NFS.BC.No.12/06.02.31/2021-22 June 25, 2021**

*The Chairman/ Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, All Commercial Banks
(including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks) All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks / District Central Co-operative Banks
All-India Financial Institutions All Non-Banking Financial Companies*

Please refer to the [circular FIDD.MSME & NFS.BC.No.4/06.02.31/2020-21 dated August 21, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11951&Mode=0) on ‘New Definition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises –clarifications’.

2. In this connection, we inform that Government of India, vide their [Gazette Notification S.O. 2347(E) dated June 16, 2021](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/MoMSME16062021.pdf), has notified amendments in paragraph (7) sub-paragraph (3) in the notification of Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises number [S.O. 2119 (E), dated June 26, 2020](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/IndianGazzate02072020.pdf), published in the Gazette of India.

3. In view of the above amendment, paragraph 2.2 (i) of [RBI circular dated August 21, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11951&Mode=0) stands modified as under:

“The existing Entrepreneurs Memorandum (EM) Part II and Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAMs) of the MSMEs obtained till June 30, 2020 shall remain valid till December 31, 2021”.

4. All other provisions of the circular remain unchanged.

**Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Call, Notice and Term Money Markets) Directions, 2021**

**RBI/2021-22/78 FMRD.DIRD.01/14.01.001/2021-22 April 01, 2021**

*All Eligible Market Participants*

Please refer to Paragraph 6 of the [Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=47226), issued as part of the [second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20 dated June 06, 2019](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=47225) regarding Comprehensive Review of Money Market Directions.

The draft Directions were released for public comments on December 04, 2020. Based on the feedback received from the market participants, the Reserve Bank of India (Call, Notice and Term Money Markets) Directions, 2021 were reviewed and have since been finalised. The [Directions](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12061&Mode=0#ANN) are enclosed herewith.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 45W of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (hereinafter called the Act) read with section 45U of the Act and of all the powers enabling it in this behalf and in supersession of Section I of the [FMRD Master Direction No. 2/2016-17 dated July 07, 2016](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10495&Mode=0), Direction No. [FMRD.DIRD.09/14.01.001/2018-19 dated October 29, 2018](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11405&Mode=0) and Direction No. [FMRD.DIRD.01/14.01.001/2020-21 dated December 04, 2020](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12006&Mode=0), the Reserve Bank of India (hereinafter called the Reserve Bank), hereby issues the following Directions to all persons and agencies eligible to deal in Call, Notice and Term Money Markets.

**1. Short title and commencement**

**(a)** These Directions shall be called the Master Direction- Reserve Bank of India (Call, Notice and Term Money Markets) Directions, 2021.

**(b)** These Directions shall come into force with effect from April 05, 2021.

**2. Definitions**

**(a)** For the purpose of these Directions, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. **“Bank”** means a banking company (including a Payment Bank and a Small Finance Bank) as defined in clause (c) of section 5 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 or a “regional rural bank”, a “corresponding new bank” or “State Bank of India” as defined in clauses (ja), (da) and (nc), of section 5 respectively thereof, or a “cooperative bank” as defined in clause (cci) of section 5 read with section 56 of the said Act;
2. **“Call Money”** means borrowing or lending in unsecured funds on overnight basis;
3. **“Capital Funds”** shall have the meaning assigned in the applicable capital regulations issued by the Department of Regulation of the Reserve Bank as amended from time to time and shall be calculated as per the latest audited balance sheet;
4. **“Electronic Trading Platform” or “ETP”** shall have the meaning assigned in paragraph 2 (1) (iii) of [the Electronic Trading Platform (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018 dated October 05, 2018](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11385&Mode=0), as modified from time to time;
5. **“Exchange”** shall mean ‘recognised stock exchange’ and shall have the same meaning as assigned to in Section 2 (f) of the Securities Contract Regulation Act, 1956.
6. **“Fortnight”** shall have the meaning assigned to it under section 42 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
7. **“Negotiated Dealing System-CALL” or “NDS-CALL”** is the electronic trading platform for execution and reporting of transactions in Call, Notice and Term Money Markets;
8. **“Net Owned Fund”** shall have the meaning assigned to it under the Explanation to section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
9. **“Notice Money”** means borrowing or lending in unsecured funds for tenors up to and inclusive of 14 days excluding overnight borrowing or lending;
10. **“Over-the-Counter markets” or “OTC markets”** refers to markets where transactions are undertaken in any manner other than on exchanges and shall include those executed on electronic trading platforms;
11. **“Payment Bank”** means a bank licensed under section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and governed by the terms of the “Reserve Bank [Guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks” dated November 27, 2014](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=32615), as amended from time to time;
12. **“Primary Dealer”** means a Non-Banking Financial Company that holds a letter of authorisation issued by the Reserve Bank to act as a Primary Dealer, in terms of the "Guidelines for Primary Dealer in Government Securities Market" dated March 29, 1995, as amended from time to time;
13. **“Small Finance Bank”** means a bank licensed under section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and governed by the terms of the “Reserve Bank [Guidelines for Licensing of Small Finance Banks” dated November 27, 2014](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=32614), as amended from time to time;
14. **“Term Money”** means borrowing or lending in unsecured funds for periods exceeding 14 days and up to one year.

**(b)** Words and expressions used but not defined in these Directions shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

**3. Participants**

The following entities shall be eligible to participate in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets, both as borrowers and lenders:

1. Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Local Area Banks);
2. Payment Banks;
3. Small Finance Banks;
4. Regional Rural Banks;
5. State Co-operative Banks, District Central Co-operative Banks and Urban Co-operative Banks (hereinafter Co-operative Banks); and
6. Primary Dealers.

**4. Prudential limits**

**(a)** Prudential limits in respect of outstanding lending transactions in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets shall be decided by the participants with the approval of their Board within the regulatory framework of the exposure norms prescribed by the Department of Regulation of the Reserve Bank for the eligible participant concerned.

**(b)** Prudential limits for outstanding borrowing transactions in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets are set out in [Table 1](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12061&Mode=0#T1).

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 1: Prudential limits for outstanding borrowing transactions in Call, Notice and Term Money Markets** |
| **Sr. No.** | **Participant category** | **Prudential limit** |
| 1. | Scheduled Commercial Banks, Payment Banks, Small Finance Banks andRegional Rural Banks | (i) 100% of capital funds, on a daily average basis in a reporting fortnight, and(ii) 125% of capital funds on any given day. |
| 2. | Co-operative Banks | (i) 2.0% of aggregate deposits as at the end of the previous financial year. |
| 3. | Primary Dealers | (i) 225% of Net Owned Fund (NOF) as at the end of previous financial year. |

**(c)** Eligible participants may, with the approval of their respective Board of Directors (or equivalent bodies), fix separate internal limits within the prudential limits for borrowing and lending in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets. The internal limits so arrived at by the eligible participants shall be conveyed to the Clearcorp Dealing System Ltd., or any other NDS-CALL system operator authorised by the Reserve Bank for setting of limits in the NDS-CALL platform, under advice to the Financial Markets Regulation Department (FMRD) of the Reserve Bank through e-mail.

**5. General guidelines**

**(a) Interest rates:** Eligible participants are free to decide on interest rates in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets.

**(b) Trading venues:** Call, Notice and Term Money transactions shall be executed in Over-the-Counter markets, including on the NDS-CALL platform or any other Electronic Trading Platform authorised for the purpose by the Reserve Bank.

**(c) Market timings:** The market timings for Call, Notice and Term Money transactions shall be from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on each business day or as specified by the Reserve Bank from time to time.

**(d) Market practices and documentation:** Eligible participants shall follow the standard market practices, methodologies and documentation prescribed by Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA), in consultation with the Reserve Bank, from time to time.

**6. Cancellation and termination**

**(a)** A Call, Notice or Term Money transaction shall, normally, not be cancelled.

**(b)** A Notice or Term Money transaction can be terminated before maturity at a mutually agreed price.

**(c)** Any cancellation or termination of a Call, Notice or Term Money transaction shall be reported as set out in paragraph 7 of these Directions.

**7. Reporting requirements**

**(a)** All Call, Notice or Term Money transactions, other than those executed on NDS-CALL platform, shall be reported to the NDS-CALL platform within 15 minutes of execution (the time when interest rate is agreed), by both counterparties to the transaction or by the Electronic Trading Platform concerned, as the case may be. For this purpose, all eligible participants in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets shall obtain membership of NDS-CALL platform. Eligible participants who are not members of NDS-CALL platform shall obtain such membership within a period of six months from the date of these Directions.

**(b)** A Call, Notice or Term Money transaction executed on the NDS-CALL platform need not be reported separately.

**(c)** Any cancellation or termination of a Call, Notice and Term Money transaction shall be reported on the NDS-CALL platform within 15 minutes of cancellation by each counterparty to the transaction or by the Electronic Trading Platform concerned, as the case may be.

**(d)** Any misreporting or multiple reporting of the same OTC markets deal by a counterparty shall be immediately brought to the notice of the Clearcorp Dealing System Ltd., or any other NDS-CALL system operator authorised by the Reserve Bank and also to the Financial Markets Regulation Department, Reserve Bank of India, Central Office, Fort, Mumbai, through email.

**8. Obligation to provide information sought by the Reserve Bank:** The Reserve Bank may call for any information or statement or seek any clarification, which in the opinion of the Reserve Bank is relevant, from persons or agencies dealing in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets, including eligible participants, and such persons, agencies and participants shall furnish such information, statement or clarification.

**9. Dissemination of data:** The Reserve Bank or any other person authorised by the Reserve Bank, may publish any anonymised data related to transactions in Call, Notice and Term Money Markets.

**10. Violation of Directions:** In the event of any person or agency violating any provision of these Directions or the provisions of any other applicable law, the Reserve Bank may, in addition to taking any penal or regulatory action in accordance with law, disallow that person or agency from dealing in the Call, Notice and Term Money Markets for a period not exceeding one month at a time, after providing reasonable opportunity to the person or agency to defend its actions, and such action may be made public by the Reserve Bank.

**11.** These Directions shall apply to Call, Notice and Term Money transactions entered into from the date these Directions come into force. Provisions of Section I of the [FMRD Master Direction No. 2/2016-17 dated July 07, 2016](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10495&Mode=0); Direction No. [FMRD.DIRD.09/14.01.001/2018-19 dated October 29, 2018](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11405&Mode=0) and Direction No. [FMRD.DIRD.01/14.01.001/2020-21 dated December 04, 2020](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12006&Mode=0), shall continue to be applicable to transactions undertaken in accordance with the said Directions till the expiry of those contracts.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12061&Mode=0>

**Resolution Framework - 2.0: Resolution of Covid-19 related stress of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) – Revision in the threshold for aggregate exposure**

**RBI/2021-22/47 DOR.STR.REC.21/21.04.048/2021-22 June 4, 2021**

*All Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks), All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks All All-India Financial Institutions, All Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)*

A reference is invited to the [circular DOR.STR.REC.12/21.04.048/2021-22](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12086&Mode=0) on “Resolution Framework 2.0 – Resolution of Covid-19 related stress of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)” dated May 5, 2021.

2. Clause 2 of the above circular specifies the eligibility conditions for MSME accounts to be considered for restructuring under the framework, which inter alia include sub-clause (iii) which states that the aggregate exposure, including non-fund based facilities, of all lending institutions to the MSME borrower should not exceed ₹25 crore as on March 31, 2021.

3. Based on a review, it has been decided to enhance the above limit from ₹25 crore to ₹50 crore.

4. Consequently, clause 2(v) would stand modified as under:

“(v) The borrower’s account was not restructured in terms of the [circulars DOR.No.BP.BC/4/21.04.048/2020-21 dated August 6, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11942&Mode=0); [DOR.No.BP.BC.34/21.04.048/2019-20 dated February 11, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11808&Mode=0); or [DBR.No.BP.BC.18/21.04.048/2018-19 dated January 1, 2019](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11445&Mode=0) (collectively referred to as MSME restructuring circulars) or the [circular DOR.No.BP.BC/3/21.04.048/2020-21 dated August 6, 2020](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11941&Mode=0) on “Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress.”

5. All other provisions of the circular remain unchanged.

**Resolution Framework 2.0 – Resolution of Covid-19 related stress of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**

**RBI/2021-22/32 DOR.STR.REC.12/21.04.048/2021-22 May 5, 2021**

*All Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks), All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks, All All-India Financial Institutions, All Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)*

Please refer to the [circular DOR.No.BP.BC/4/21.04.048/2020-21 dated August 6, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11942&Mode=0) on restructuring of advances to the MSME borrowers.

2. In view of the uncertainties created by the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in India in the recent weeks, it has been decided to extend the above facility for restructuring existing loans without a downgrade in the asset classification subject to the following conditions:

(i) The borrower should be classified as a micro, small or medium enterprise as on March 31, 2021 in terms of the Gazette Notification S.O. 2119 (E) dated June 26, 2020.

(ii) The borrowing entity is GST-registered on the date of implementation of the restructuring. However, this condition will not apply to MSMEs that are exempt from GST-registration. This shall be determined on the basis of exemption limit obtaining as on March 31, 2021.

(iii) The aggregate exposure, including non-fund based facilities, of all lending institutions to the borrower does not exceed ₹25 crore as on March 31, 2021.

(iv) The borrower’s account was a ‘standard asset’ as on March 31, 2021.

(v) The borrower’s account was not restructured in terms of the [circulars DOR.No.BP.BC/4/21.04.048/2020-21 dated August 6, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11942&Mode=0); [DOR.No.BP.BC.34/21.04.048/2019-20 dated February 11, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11808&Mode=0); or [DBR.No.BP.BC.18/21.04.048/2018-19 dated January 1, 2019](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11445&Mode=0) (collectively referred to as MSME restructuring circulars).

(vi) The restructuring of the borrower account is invoked by September 30, 2021. For this purpose, the restructuring shall be treated as invoked when the lending institution and the borrower agree to proceed with the efforts towards finalising a restructuring plan to be implemented in respect of such borrower. The decisions on applications received by the lending institutions from their customers for invoking restructuring under this facility shall be communicated in writing to the applicant by the lending institutions within 30 days of receipt of such applications. The decision to invoke the restructuring under this facility shall be taken by each lending institution having exposure to a borrower independent of invocation decisions taken by other lending institutions, if any, having exposure to the same borrower.

(vii) The restructuring of the borrower account is implemented within 90 days from the date of invocation.

(viii) If the borrower is not registered in the Udyam Registration portal, such registration shall be required to be completed before the date of implementation of the restructuring plan for the plan to be treated as implemented.

(ix) Upon implementation of the restructuring plan, the lending institutions shall keep provision of 10 percent of the residual debt of the borrower.

(x) It is reiterated that lending institutions shall put in place a Board approved policy on restructuring of MSME advances under these instructions at the earliest, and in any case not later than a month from the date of this circular.

(xi) All other instructions specified in the [circular DOR.No.BP.BC/4/21.04.048/2020-21 dated August 6, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11942&Mode=0) shall remain applicable.

3. In respect of restructuring plans implemented as per Clause 2 above, asset classification of borrowers classified as standard may be retained as such, whereas the accounts which may have slipped into NPA category between April 1, 2021 and date of implementation may be upgraded as ‘standard asset’, as on the date of implementation of the restructuring plan.

4. In respect of accounts of borrowers which were restructured in terms of the MSME restructuring circulars, lending institutions are permitted, as a one-time measure, to review the working capital sanctioned limits and / or drawing power based on a reassessment of the working capital cycle, reduction of margins, etc. without the same being treated as restructuring. The decision with regard to above shall be taken by lending institutions by September 30, 2021. The reassessed sanctioned limit / drawing power shall be subject to review by the lending institution at least on a half yearly basis and the renewal / reassessment at least on an annual basis. The annual renewal/reassessment shall be expected to suitably modulate the limits as per the then-prevailing business conditions.

5. The above measures shall be contingent on the lending institutions satisfying themselves that the same is necessitated on account of the economic fallout from Covid-19. Further, accounts provided relief under these instructions shall be subject to subsequent supervisory review with regard to their justifiability on account of the economic fallout from Covid-19.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12086&Mode=0>

**Credit to MSME Entrepreneurs**

**RBI/2020-21/92 DOR.No.Ret.BC.37/12.01.001/2020-21 February 05, 2021**

*All Scheduled Commercial Banks*

In terms of paragraph 5 of the [Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies of February 5, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51078), Scheduled Commercial Banks will be allowed to deduct the amount equivalent to credit disbursed to ‘New MSME borrowers’ from their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) for calculation of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). For the purpose of this exemption, ‘New MSME borrowers’ shall be defined as those MSME borrowers who have not availed any credit facilities from the banking system as on January 1, 2021. This exemption will be available only up to ₹25 lakh per borrower disbursed up to the fortnight ending October 1, 2021, for a period of one year from the date of origination of the loan or the tenure of the loan, whichever is earlier.

2. Banks are required to report the exemption availed at the end of a fortnight, in Annex A to Form A as per [Master Circular on Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) dated July 1, 2015](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=9905), under the item “Any other liabilities coming under the purview of zero prescription” at VIII.1. Proper fortnightly records of credit disbursed to new MSME borrowers/CRR exemption claimed, duly certified by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or an equivalent level officer, must be maintained by banks for supervisory review.

**Priority Sector Lending (PSL) - On-lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to NBFC-MFIs**

**RBI/2021-22/27 FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.No.10/04.09.01/2021-22 May 5, 2021**

*The Chairman/ Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer, Small Finance Banks*

As per extant guidelines, lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) for on-lending is not reckoned for priority sector lending (PSL) classification. In view of the fresh challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and to address the emergent liquidity position of smaller MFIs, it has been decided to allow PSL classification to the fresh credit extended by SFBs to registered NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs (Societies, Trusts etc.) which are members of RBI recognised ‘Self-Regulatory Organisation’ of the sector and which have a ‘gross loan portfolio’ of upto ₹500 crore as on 31 March 2021, for the purpose of on-lending to individuals. Bank credit as above will be permitted up to 10% of the bank’s total priority sector portfolio as on 31 March, 2021.

2. The above dispensation shall be valid upto March 31, 2022. However, loans thus disbursed will continue to be classified under Priority Sector till the date of repayment/maturity whichever is earlier. Further, banks will be required to adhere to the conditions prescribed for on-lending under para 21 of our Master Directions on PSL dated September 4, 2020 (updated as on April 29, 2021).

3. The guidelines shall come into effect from the date of the issuance of this circular.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12081&Mode=0>

**Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit- Extension**

**RBI/2021-22/21 DOR.CRE.REC.06/04.02.001/2021-22 April 12, 2021**

*All Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks and EXIM Bank*

Please refer to the instructions issued vide [DBR.Dir.BC.No.69/04.02.001/2019-20 dated May 13, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11887&Mode=0).

2. In this connection, Government of India has approved the extension of Interest Equalization Scheme for pre and post shipment Rupee export credit, with same scope and coverage, for three more months i.e., upto June 30, 2021. The extension takes effect from April 01, 2021 and ends on June 30, 2021 covering a period of three months.

3. Consequently, the extant operational instructions issued by the Reserve Bank under the captioned Scheme shall continue to remain in force upto June 30, 2021.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12075&Mode=0>

**Asset Classification and Income Recognition following the expiry of Covid-19 regulatory package**

**RBI/2021-22/17 DOR.STR.REC.4/21.04.048/2021-22 April 7, 2021**

*All Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks), All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks, All All-India Financial Institutions, All Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)*

The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India has pronounced its judgement in the matter of Small Scale Industrial Manufacturers Association vs UOI & Ors. and other connected matters on March 23, 2021. In this connection, it is advised hereunder:

**I. Refund/adjustment of ‘interest on interest’**

2. All lending institutions1 shall immediately put in place a Board-approved policy to refund/adjust the ‘interest on interest’ charged to the borrowers during the moratorium period, i.e. March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 in conformity with the above judgement. In order to ensure that the above judgement is implemented uniformly in letter and spirit by all lending institutions, methodology for calculation of the amount to be refunded/adjusted for different facilities shall be finalised by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in consultation with other industry participants/bodies, which shall be adopted by all lending institutions.

3. The above reliefs shall be applicable to all borrowers, including those who had availed of working capital facilities during the moratorium period, irrespective of whether moratorium had been fully or partially availed, or not availed, in terms of the circulars DOR.No.BP.BC.47/21.04.048/2019-20 dated March 27, 2020 and DOR.No.BP.BC.71/21.04.048/2019-20 dated May 23, 2020 (“Covid-19 Regulatory Package”).

4. Lending institutions shall disclose the aggregate amount to be refunded/adjusted in respect of their borrowers based on the above reliefs in their financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2021.

**II. Asset Classification**

5. Asset classification of borrower accounts by all lending institutions following the above judgment shall continue to be governed by the extant instructions as clarified below.

In respect of accounts which were not granted any moratorium in terms of the Covid19 Regulatory Package, asset classification shall be as per the criteria laid out in the Master Circular - Prudential norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning pertaining to Advances dated July 1, 2015 or other relevant instructions as applicable to the specific category of lending institutions (IRAC Norms).

In respect of accounts which were granted moratorium in terms of the Covid19 Regulatory Package, the asset classification for the period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 shall be governed in terms of the circular DOR.No.BP.BC.63/21.04.048/2019-20 dated April 17, 2020, read with circular DOR.No.BP.BC.71/21.04.048/2019-20 dated May 23, 2020. For the period commencing September 1, 2020, asset classification for all such accounts shall be as per the applicable IRAC Norms.

*1 Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks), Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks, All-India Financial Institutions, and Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)*

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12071&Mode=0>

**External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy – Relaxation in the period of parking of unutilised ECB proceeds in term deposits**

R**BI/2021-22/16 A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 01 April 07, 2021**

*All Category-I Authorised Dealer Banks*

Please refer to paragraph 12 of the Governor’s Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated April 07, 2021. In this connection, attention of Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD Category-I) banks is invited to paragraph 4.2 of the of Master Direction No.5 dated March 26, 2019, on “External Commercial Borrowings, Trade Credits and Structured Obligations”, in terms of which ECB borrowers are allowed to park ECB proceeds in term deposits with AD Category-I banks in India for a maximum period of 12 months cumulatively.

2. Based on requests from stakeholders, including Industry associations, and with a view to providing relief to the ECB borrowers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been decided to relax the above stipulation as a one-time measure. Accordingly, unutilised ECB proceeds drawn down on or before March 01, 2020 can be parked in term deposits with AD Category-I banks in India prospectively for an additional period up to March 01, 2022.

3. All other provisions of the ECB policy remain unchanged. AD Category-I banks should bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents/ customers.

4. The aforesaid Master Direction No. 5 dated March 26, 2019, is being updated to reflect the changes.

5. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under section 10(4) and 11(2) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions/ approvals, if any, required under any other law.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12070&Mode=0>

**Margin for Derivative Contracts**

**RBI/2020-21/98 A. P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 10 February 15, 2021**

*All Authorised Dealer Category-I Banks*

Attention of Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD Cat-I) banks is invited to the Foreign Exchange Management (Margin for Derivative Contracts) Regulations, 2020 notified in the Gazette of India vide notification no. FEMA.399/RB-2020 dated October 23, 2020 ([Annex I](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/AnnexI_15022021.pdf)). Accordingly, directions are being issued to allow posting and collection of margin for permitted derivative contracts between a person resident in India and a person resident outside India.

2. AD Cat-I banks may post and collect margin in India, on their own account or on behalf of their customers, for a permitted derivative contract entered into with a person resident outside India in the form of:

1. Indian currency;
2. Freely convertible foreign currency;
3. Debt securities issued by Indian Central Government and State Governments;
4. Rupee bonds issued by persons resident in India which are:
5. Listed on a recognized stock exchange in India; and
6. Assigned a credit rating of AAA issued by a rating agency registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. If different ratings are accorded by two or more credit rating agencies, then the lowest rating shall be reckoned.

**Explanation:** Permitted derivative contract shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Foreign Exchange Management (Margin for Derivative Contracts) Regulations, 2020 [Notification no. FEMA.399/RB-2020 dated October 23, 2020].

3. AD Cat-I banks may post and collect such margin outside India in the form of:

1. Freely convertible foreign currency; and
2. Debt securities issued by foreign sovereigns with a credit rating of AA- and above issued by S&P Global Ratings / Fitch Ratings or Aa3 and above issued by Moody’s Investors Service. If different ratings are accorded by two or more credit rating agencies, then the lowest rating shall be reckoned.

4. AD Cat-I banks may receive and pay interest on margin posted and collected on their own account or on behalf of their customers for a permitted derivative contract entered into with a person resident outside India.

5. AD Cat-I banks shall maintain a separate account in the name of persons resident outside India for the purpose of posting and collecting cash margin in India, and transactions incidental thereto.

6. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under Sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions / approvals, if any, required under any other law.

**Basel III Framework on Liquidity Standards – Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR)**

**RBI/2020-21/95 DOR.No.LRG.BC.40/21.04.098/2020-21 February 05, 2021**

*All Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks,Local Area Banks and Payments Banks)*

Please refer to our [circular DBR.BP.BC.No.106/21.04.098/2017-18 dated May 17, 2018](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11278&Mode=0) on Basel III Framework on Liquidity Standards - Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR)-Final Guidelines (‘NSFR Guidelines’) and [circular DOR.BP.BC.No.16/21.04.098/2020-21 dated September 29, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11971&Mode=0) deferring the implementation of the said guidelines till April 1, 2021.

2. In view of the ongoing stress on account of COVID-19, it has been decided to defer the implementation of NSFR guidelines by a further period of six months. Accordingly, the NSFR Guidelines shall come into effect from October 1, 2021.

**Credit to MSME Entrepreneurs**

**RBI/2021-22/30 DoR.RET.REC.09/12.01.001/2021-22 May 05, 2021**

*All Scheduled Commercial Banks*

Please refer to our circular DOR.No.Ret.BC.37/12.01.001/2020-21 dated February 5, 2021, on captioned subject.

2. In terms of the above circular, Scheduled Commercial Banks were allowed to deduct the amount equivalent to credit disbursed to new MSME borrowers from their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) for calculation of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). This exemption was available up to ₹ 25 lakh per borrower for the credit disbursed up to the fortnight ending October 1, 2021.

3. It has been decided to extend this exemption for such credits disbursed up to the fortnight ending December 31, 2021. All other instructions contained in the circular ibid remain same.

**Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – Maintenance of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) – Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) - Extension of Relaxation**

**RBI/2020-21/91 DOR.No.Ret.BC.36/12.01.001/2020-21 February 05, 2021**

*All Scheduled Banks*

Please refer to our [circulars DOR.No.Ret.BC.52/12.01.001/2019-20 dated March 27, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11838&Mode=0), [DOR.RRB.No.28/31.01.001/2020-21 dated December 4, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12004&Mode=0) and [Press Release No.2020-2021/401 dated September 28, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50427) on Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), wherein the banks were allowed to avail of funds under the MSF by dipping into the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) up to an additional one per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL), i.e., cumulatively up to three per cent of NDTL. This facility, which was initially available up to June 30, 2020 was later extended in phases up to March 31, 2021 providing comfort to banks on their liquidity requirements and also to enable them to meet their Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) requirements.

2. As announced in the [Statement of Developmental and Regulatory Policies of February 05, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51078), with a view to providing comfort to banks on their liquidity requirements, banks are allowed to continue with the MSF relaxation for a further period of six months, i.e., up to September 30, 2021.

**Loans and advances to directors, their relatives, and firms / concerns in which they are interested**

**RBI/2020-21/89 DOR.CRG.CRS.Cir.No.5/13.05.000/2020-21 February 5, 2021**

*The Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer, All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks*

Please refer to our [circular BPD.Cir.50/13.05.00/2002-03 dated April 29, 2003](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=1204&Mode=0) on the captioned subject and subsequent instructions issued in this regard.

2. The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (**“the Act”**) has been amended by the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 notified for the Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (**UCBs**) on September 29, 2020 and deemed to have been effective from June 29, 2020. Consequently, section 20 of the principal Act has become applicable to UCBs. Keeping in view the above, the extant directions on the subject issued to UCBs have been reviewed and the revised directions are issued as under.

3. UCBs shall not make, provide or renew any loans and advances or extend any other financial accommodation to or on behalf of their directors or their relatives, or to the firms / companies / concerns in which the directors or their relatives are interested (collectively called as **“director-related loans”**). Further, the directors or their relatives or the firms / companies / concerns in which the directors or their relatives are interested shall also not stand as surety/guarantor to the loans and advances or any other financial accommodation sanctioned by UCBs. ‘Advances’ for the purpose shall include all types of funded / working capital limits such as cash credits, overdrafts, credit cards, etc.

4. The following categories of director-related loans shall, however, be excluded from “loans and advances” for the purpose of these directions:

1. Regular employee-related loans to staff directors, if any, on the Boards of UCBs;
2. Normal loans, as applicable to members, to the directors on the Boards of Salary Earners' UCBs;
3. Normal employee-related loans to Managing Directors / Chief Executive Officers of UCBs;
4. Loans to directors or their relatives against Government Securities, Fixed Deposits and Life Insurance Policies standing in their own name.

**Explanation:** For the purpose of these directions -

I. The term 'any other financial accommodation' shall include funded and non-funded credit limits and underwritings and similar commitments, as under:

1. The funded limits shall include loans and advances by way of bill/cheque purchase/ discounting, pre-shipment and post-shipment credit facilities and deferred payment guarantee limits extended for any purpose including purchase of capital equipment and acceptance limits in connection therewith sanctioned to borrowers, and guarantees by issue of which a bank undertakes financial obligation to enable its constituents to acquire capital assets. It shall also include investments which are in the nature of / in lieu of credit.
2. The non-funded limits shall include letters of credit, guarantees other than those referred to in paragraph (a) above, underwritings and similar commitments. It shall also include off-balance sheet exposure in the form of derivatives.

II. The word “relative” shall have the meaning as under:

A person shall be deemed to be a relative of another, if and only if:-

a) They are members of a Hindu Undivided Family; or

b) They are husband and wife; or

c) The one is related to the other (or vice-versa) in the manner indicated below:

1. Father (including step-father)
2. Mother (including step-mother)
3. Son (including step-son)
4. Son’s wife
5. Daughter (including step-daughter)
6. Daughter’s husband
7. Brother (including step-brother)
8. Brother’s wife
9. Sister (including step-sister)
10. Sister’s husband

III. The word “interested” shall mean the director of the UCB or his relative, as the case may be, being a director, managing agent, manager, employee, proprietor, partner, coparcener or guarantor, as the case may be, of the firm / company / concern (including HUF):

1. Provided that a director of a UCB or his relative shall also be deemed to be interested in a company, being the subsidiary or holding company, if he/she is a director, managing agent, manager, employee or guarantor of the respective holding or subsidiary company:
2. Provided further that a director of a UCB shall also be deemed to be interested in a company/firm if he/she holds substantial interest in or is in control of the company/firm or in a company, being the subsidiary or holding company, if he/she holds substantial interest in or is in control of the respective holding or subsidiary company:
3. Provided further that a relative of a director of a UCB shall also be deemed to be interested in a company/firm if he/she is a major shareholder or is in control of the company/firm or in a company, being the subsidiary or holding company, if he/she is a major shareholder or is in control of the respective holding or subsidiary company:

IV. The term “substantial interest” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in section 5(ne) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

V. The term “control” shall include the right to appoint majority of the directors or to control the management or policy decisions exercisable by a person or persons acting individually or in concert, directly or indirectly, including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholders agreements or voting agreements or in another manner.

VI. The term “major shareholder” shall mean a person holding 10% or more of the paid up share capital.

5. UCBs shall submit information pertaining to their director-related loans as at the end of each quarter (i.e. 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December), in the format given in the [Annex](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/89NOT05022021_AN.pdf) to these directions, to the concerned Regional Office of Department of Supervision of Reserve Bank of India within fifteen days from the end of the respective quarter. In the case of UCBs functioning under Administrator(s) / Person(s)-in-Charge / Special Officers, the UCBs concerned should submit the information in respect of loans and advances availed by the Administrator(s) / Person(s)-in-Charge / Special Officers, including their relatives.

6. These directions supersede the earlier directives / instructions issued on the subject and shall come into force immediately. The existing director-related loans sanctioned/granted by UCBs in terms of the earlier directives / instructions prior to the issue of this circular, if any, may continue till their respective maturity and shall not be renewed further.

7. A copy of this circular should be placed before the Board of Directors of your bank in its ensuing meeting and a confirmation thereof should be sent to the concerned Regional Office of the Department of Supervision of Reserve Bank of India.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12019&Mode=0>

**Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021**

**Notification No. FEMA 23(R)/(4)/2021-RB January 08, 2021**

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1), sub-section (3) of section 7 and clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 47 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999), the Reserve Bank of India makes the following amendments in the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015 [[Notification No. FEMA 23(R)/2015- RB dated January 12, 2016](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10256&Mode=0)] (hereinafter referred to as 'the Principal Regulations'), namely:

**1. Short title and commencement: -**

1. These Regulations may be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021.
2. They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the [official Gazette](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/GazetteN21012021.pdf).

2. In the Principal Regulations, in regulation 4, for sub-regulation (ea), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(ea) re-export of leased aircraft/helicopter and/or engines/auxiliary power units (APUs), either completely or in partially knocked down condition re-possessed by overseas lessor and duly de-registered by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the request of Irrevocable Deregistration and Export Request Authorisation (IDERA) holder under ‘Cape Town Convention’ or any other termination or cancellation of the lease agreement between the lessor and lessee subject to permission by DGCA/Ministry of Civil Aviation for such export/s.”

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12014&Mode=0>

**Booklet on Payment Systems in India 25 Jan 2021**

The Reserve Bank today released the [Booklet on Payment Systems](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/OccasionalPublications.aspx?head=Payment%20Systems%20in%20India%20-%20Booklet) covering the journey of Payment and Settlement Systems in India during the second decade of the millennium, viz., from the beginning of 2010 till the end of 2020.

This Booklet captures the transformation of India in the sphere of payment and settlement systems and describes, inter-alia, the legal and regulatory environment underpinning the digital payments systems, various enablers, payment options available to consumers, extent of adoption, etc. during 2010 to 2020.

Reserve Bank had earlier come out with Booklets on Payment Systems in the years 1998 and 2008. This third Booklet in the series is expected to serve as a reference document for those interested in knowing more about payment system developments in the country.

<https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/Publications/PDFs/PSSBOOKLET93D3AEFDEAF14044BC1BB36662C41A8C.PDF>

**ECONOMIC RELIEF FROM PANDEMIC**

**I. Rs. 1.1 Lakh Cr Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected Sectors**

**Health Sector: Rs. 50,000 crore**

Aimed at up scaling medical infrastructure targeting underserved areas.

* Guarantee cover for expansion and new projects related to health/medical infrastructure in cities other than 8 metropolitan cities.
* Guarantee coverage: 50% for expansion & 75% for new projects
* For Aspirational Districts, guarantee cover of 75% for both new projects and expansion.
* Maximum loan: Rs. 100 crore; Guarantee duration: Up to 3 years
* Interest rate capped at 7.95%
* Guarantee by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited

**Other Sectors: Rs. 60,000 crore**

* Interest rate capped at 8.25% p.a.
* Decisions at later stage based on evolving needs

Normal interest without guarantee cover is 10-11%

**II. Additional 1.5 lakh Cr for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme**

* Launched as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package in May, 2020.
* ECLGS-1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 have resulted in credit disbursal of 2.69 lakh Crore to 1.1 crore units by 12 Public Sector Banks, 25 Private Sector Banks, and 31 Non-banking Financial Companies
* Contact intensive sectors already covered and shall be continued. Rs 4,000 crore given to these sectors through this window so far
* Limit of admissible guarantee and loan amount proposed to be increased above existing level of 20% of outstanding on each loan
* Sector wise details will be finalized as per evolving needs
* Overall cap of admissible guarantee to be raised from Rs. 3 lakh crore to Rs. 4.5 lakh crore

**III. Credit Guarantee Scheme to Facilitate Loans to 25 Lakh Persons Through Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)**

* Guarantee will be provided to Scheduled Commercial Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on lending up to Rs 1.25 lakh to approximately 25 lakh small borrowers
* Interest Rate on Loans from banks to be capped at MCLR plus 2%
* Maximum loan tenure 3 years, 80% of assistance to be used by MFI for incremental lending, interest at least 2% below maximum rate prescribed by RBI
* Focus on new lending, not repayment of old loans
* Loans to borrowers to be in line with extant RBI guidelines such as number of lenders, borrower to be member of JLG, ceiling on household income & debt
* All borrowers (including defaulters up to 89 days) eligible
* Guarantee cover for funding provided by MLIs to MFIs/NBFC-MFIs till March 31, 2022 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs. 7,500 crore are issued, whichever is earlier.
* Guarantee up to 75% of default amount for up to 3 years through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)
* No guarantee fee to be charged by NCGTC

**IV. Reviving Tourism: Financial support to more than 11,000 Registered Tourist Guides/Travel and Tourism Stakeholders**

* Under new Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected Sectors, working capital/personal loans will be provided to people in tourism sector to discharge liabilities and restart businesses impacted due to COVID-19
* The scheme will cover:

✓ 10,700 Regional Level Tourist Guides recognised by Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides recognised by the State Governments

✓ Travel and Tourism Stakeholders (TTS) recognized by Ministry of Tourism (904)

* Loans will be provided with 100 % guarantee up to the following limits:
* Rs. 10,00,000 for TTS (per agency)
* Rs. 1,00,000 for tourist guides licenced at Regional or State level
* No processing charges, waiver of foreclosure/prepayment charges. No additional collateral requirement
* Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Tourism through NCGTC

**V. Free Tourist Visa to 5 Lakh Tourists**

* 10.93 million foreign tourists visited India in 2019, spent US $ 30.098 billion on leisure and business.
* Average daily stay for a foreign tourist in India is 21 days. Average daily spending of a tourist in India is around $34 (Rs 2400).
* Once Visa issuance is restarted, the first 5 lakh Tourists Visas will be issued free of charge.
* Benefit will be available only once per tourist
* The scheme will be applicable till 31st March, 2022 or till 5,00,000 visas are issued, whichever is earlier
* Total financial implications- Rs 100 Crore

**VI. Extension of Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana**

* Launched on 1st Oct, 2020. Incentivizes employers for creation of new employment, restoration of loss of employment through EPFO.
* Approved outlay Rs. 22,810 crore for 58.50 lakh estimated beneficiaries. Last date for registration is 30.06.2021.
* Subsidy provided for two years from registration for new employees drawing monthly wages less than Rs. 15000 for:

➢ Both Employer’s and Employee’s share of contribution (total 24% of wages) for establishment strength upto 1000 employees.

➢ Only Employee’s share (12% of wages) in case of establishment strength of more than 1000.

* Benefit of Rs. 902 Cr given to 21.42 lakh beneficiaries of 79,577 establishments till 18.06.2021
* Scheme extended from 30.6.2021 to 31.03.2022

**VII. Additional Subsidy for DAP & P&K fertilizers**

**(Announced Earlier)**

* Record procurement of 432.48 Lakh MT of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2021-22 (against 389.92 Lakh MT in RMS 2020-21)
* Rs 85,413 Crore paid to farmers
* Existing NBS subsidy was Rs. 27,500 crores in FY 2020-21 which has been increased to Rs. 42,275 crore in FY 2021-22
* Additional amount of Rs. 14,775 crore to be provided. This includes Rs. 9,125 crore additional subsidy for DAP and Rs.5,650 crore additional subsidy for NPK based complex fertilizer

**VIII. Extension of Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**

**(Announced Earlier)**

* PMGKAY was launched on 26th March 2020 to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by COVID 19 Pandemic
* The scheme was launched initially for the period from April to June 2020.
* However, keeping in view the need for continuous support to the poor and the needy, the scheme was extended till November 2020.
* The total cost of the scheme in 2020-21 was Rs. 133,972 crore.
* In the wake of the second wave of COVID-19, the scheme was relaunched in May 2021 to ensure food security of poor/vulnerable
* 5 kg of food grains will be provided free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries from May to November 2021
* Estimated financial implications are Rs 93,869 cr, bringing the total cost of PMGKY to Rs 2,27,841 Crore

**HEALTH**

**IX. Rs. 23,220 Cr More for Public Health**

* Rs 15,000 Cr Emergency Health Systems Project (2020-21) led to 25-fold increase in COVID dedicated hospitals, setting up of 7,929 COVID health centres, 9,954 COVID care centres, 7.5 times increase in oxygen supported beds, 42-fold increase in isolation beds, 45-fold increase in ICU beds.
* New scheme focused on short term emergency preparedness with special emphasis on children and paediatric care/paediatric beds.
* Rs 23,220 Cr earmarked for one year
* Funding for short-term HR augmentation through medical students (interns, residents, final year) and nursing students
* Increase availability of ICU beds, oxygen supply at central, district and sub-district level.
* Ensure adequate availability of equipment, medicines; access to tele-consultation; ambulance services.
* Enhance testing capacity and supportive diagnostics, strengthen capacity for surveillance and genome sequencing.

**IMPETUS FOR GROWTH & EMPLOYMENT**

**X. Fighting Malnutrition and Improving Farmers’ Income: Release of Climate Resilient Special Traits Varieties**

* Earlier focus of research was on developing higher yield crop varieties. Attention towards nutrition, climate resilience and other traits was missing.
* Concentration of important nutrients far below required level, susceptible to biotic and abiotic stresses
* ICAR has developed bio-fortified crop varieties having high nutrients like protein, iron, zinc, Vitamin-A
* Varieties tolerant to diseases, insect’s, pests, drought, salinity, and flooding, early maturing and amenable to mechanical harvesting also developed
* 21 such varieties of rice, peas, millet, maize, soyabean, quinoa, buckwheat, winged bean, pigeon pea & sorghum will be dedicated to the nation.

**XI. Revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC)**

* Established in 1982 to support farmers of North East in getting remunerative prices of agri-horticulture produces
* Aims to enhance agricultural, procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure in North East
* 75 Farmer Producer Organisations/Farmer Producer Companies registered with NERAMAC. 13 GI crops of North East registered
* Prepared business plan to give 10-15% higher price to farmers by-passing middlemen/agents
* Roadmap for capacity building, aggregation, marketing and technology prepared
* Proposes to set up North-Eastern Centre for Organic Cultivation, facilitating equity finance to entrepreneurs
* Revival package of Rs 77.45 cr proposed for financial restructuring and infusion of funds to NERAMAC

**XII. Rs 33,000 Crore Boost for Project Exports through National Export Insurance Account (NEIA)**

* NEIA Trust promotes Medium and Long Term (MLT) project exports by extending risk covers
* Provides covers to buyer’s credit, given by EXIM Bank, to less creditworthy borrowers and supporting project exporters.
* NEIA Trust has supported 211 projects of Rs 52,860 cr in 52 countries by 63 different Indian Project Exporters till March 31, 2021
* Proposed to provide additional corpus to NEIA over 5 years to allow it to underwrite additional Rs. 33,000 crores of project exports

**XIII. Rs. 88,000 crore Boost to Export Insurance Cover**

* Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) promotes exports by providing credit insurance services.
* Its products support around 30% of India’s merchandise exports.
* Proposed to infuse equity in ECGC over 5 years to boost export insurance cover by Rs. 88,000 cr

**XIV. Digital India: Rs. 19041 Cr for Broadband to each Village through BharatNet PPP Model**

* August 15, 2020: PM announced broadband connectivity to all inhabited villages in 1000 days
* Out of 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats, 1,56,223 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready by 31st May, 2021
* Implementation of BharatNet in PPP model in 16 States (bundled into 9 packages) on viability gap funding basis
* Additional Rs. 19,041 Cr being provided for BharatNet
* Total outlay will be Rs. 61,109 crores including already approved amount of Rs. 42,068 crores in 2017
* Expansion and upgradation of BharatNet to cover all Gram Panchayats and inhabited villages

**XV. Extension of Tenure of PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing**

* Provides incentive of 6% to 4% on incremental sales of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India, for a period of five years
* Incentives applicable from 01.08.2020. Base year 2019-20
* Companies have been unable to achieve incremental sales condition due to:
	+ disruption in production activities due to pandemic related lockdowns,
	+ restrictions on movement of personnel
	+ delay in installation of relocated plant and machinery
	+ disruption in supply chain of components
* Tenure of the scheme launched in 2020-21 is proposed to be extended by one year i.e. till 2025-26.
* Participating companies will get option of choosing any five years for meeting their production targets under the scheme.
* Investments made in 2020-21 will continue to be counted as eligible investments

**Rs 3.03 Lakh Cr for Reform Based Result Linked Power Distribution Scheme**

* Revamped reforms-based, result-linked power distribution scheme of financial assistance to DISCOMS for infrastructure creation, up-gradation of system, capacity building and process improvement.
* State specific intervention in place of “one size fits all”.
* Participation contingent to pre-qualification criteria like publication of audited financial reports, upfront liquidation of State Government’s dues/subsidy to DISCOMS and non – creation of additional regulatory assets.
* 25 crore smart meters, 10,000 feeders, 4 lakh km of LT overhead lines planned
* Ongoing works of IPDS, DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA will be merged
* Total allocation- Rs.3,03,058 Cr, Central share- Rs. 97,631 cr
* States have already been allowed additional borrowing for four years up to 0.5% of Gross State Domestic Product annually (Rs. 1,05,864 Cr for 2021-22) subject to carrying out specified power sector reforms

**New Streamlined Process for PPP Projects and Asset Monetisation**

* Current process for approval of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects is long and involves multiple levels of approval
* New policy will be formulated for appraisal and approval of PPP proposals and monetization of core infrastructure assets, including through InvITs
* Aim is to ensure speedy clearance of projects to facilitate private sector’s efficiencies in financing construction and management of infrastructure

**Periodic Updation of KYC – Restrictions on Account Operations for Non-compliance**

**RBI/2021-22/29 DOR. AML.REC 13/14.01.001/2021-22 May 5, 2021**

*The Chairpersons/ CEOs of all the Regulated Entities*

Please refer to Section 38 of the Master Direction on KYC dated February 25, 2016, in terms of which Regulated Entities (REs) have to carry out periodic updation of KYC of existing customers. Keeping in view the current COVID-19 related restrictions in various parts of the country, REs are advised that in respect of the customer accounts where periodic updation of KYC is due and pending as on date, no restrictions on operations of such account shall be imposed till December 31, 2021, for this reason alone, unless warranted under instructions of any regulator/ enforcement agency/court of law, etc.

Regulated entities are also advised to continue engaging with their customers for having their KYC updated in such cases.

**Priority Sector Lending (PSL) - Lending by banks to NBFCs for On-Lending**

**RBI/2021-22/15 FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.No.8/04.09.01/2021-22 April 7, 2021**

*The Chairman / Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, [All Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks other than Salary Earners’ Banks]*

Please refer to our Circular No. [RBI/2019-20/179 FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.No.19/04.09.01/2019-20 dated March 23, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11828&Mode=0) advising, inter alia, that the bank loans to registered NBFCs (other than MFIs) for on-lending will be eligible for classification as priority sector under Agriculture and Micro & Small Enterprises up to March 31, 2021 and will be reviewed thereafter.

2. As announced in the [Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated April 7, 2021](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51382), with a view to ensure continued availability of credit to these sectors to aid faster economic recovery, it has been decided to extend the PSL classification for lending by banks to NBFCs for on-lending by six months i.e. up to September 30, 2021. However, bank loans to HFCs for on-lending for the purpose of housing, as prescribed in para 23 of our Master Direction on PSL dated September 4, 2020, will continue on an on-going basis. Further, existing loans disbursed under the on-lending model will continue to be classified under Priority Sector till the date of repayment/maturity.

3. All other guidelines as issued vide circulars [FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.7/04.09.01/2019-20 dated August 13, 2019](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11659&Mode=0), [FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.No.19/04.09.01/2019-20 dated March 23, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11828&Mode=0) and [Master Directions on PSL dated September 4, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=11959) will continue to apply.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12069&Mode=0>

**Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**

**RBI/2021-22/12 FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.03/09.16.03/2021-22 April 05, 2021**

*The Chairman & Managing Director/CEO, All Scheduled Commercial Banks & Small Finance Banks*

Please refer to the Master Circular on DAY-NULM [FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.01/09.16.03/2019-20 dated July 01, 2019](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=11615) containing the instructions / guidelines / directives issued to banks.

**Background**

The Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), restructured the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and launched the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) in 2013. NULM has been under implementation w.e.f. September 24, 2013 in all district headquarters (irrespective of population) and all the cities with population of 1 lakh or more.

The Self Employment Program (SEP) of NULM focuses on providing financial assistance through provision of interest subsidy on loans to support establishment of Individual & Group Enterprises and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of urban poor. The erstwhile provision of capital subsidy for USEP (Urban Self Employment Program) and UWSP (Urban Women Self-Help Program) under SJSRY has been replaced by interest subsidy for loans to Individual enterprise (SEP-I), Group enterprise (SEP-G) and Self Help Groups (SEP-SHGs). With a view to improving the livelihood opportunities for the poor in urban areas, erstwhile Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (UPA Division), Government of India vide their Office Memorandum No.K-14011/2/2012-UPA/FTS-5196 dated February 19, 2016 had enhanced the scope of National Urban Livelihoods Mission. The Mission with enhanced scope was renamed as **“Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)”**.

The operational guidelines of the Self Employment Program (SEP) component of DAY-NULM are as under:

**1. Introduction:**

1.1 The SEP provides financial assistance to individuals/groups including street venders/hawkers of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures/ micro-enterprises, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. The programme also supports Self Help Groups (SHGs) of urban poor to access easy credit from bank and avail interest subsidy on SHG loans. The SEP will also focus on technology, marketing and other support services to the above beneficiaries engaged in micro enterprises for their livelihoods and will also facilitate issuance of credit cards for working capital requirement of the entrepreneurs.

1.2 The underemployed and unemployed urban poor will be encouraged to set up small enterprises relating to manufacturing, service and small business for which there is considerable local demand. Local skills and local crafts should be particularly encouraged. Each Urban Local Body (ULB) should develop a compendium of such activities/projects keeping in view skills available, marketability of products, costs, economic viability etc.

1.3 The percentage of women beneficiaries under SEP shall not be less than 30 percent. SCs and STs must be benefited at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the city/town population of poor. A special provision of 5 percent reservation should be made for the differently-abled under this program with priority to women. In view of the Prime Minister’s 15-Point Program for the Welfare of Minorities, at least 15 percent of the physical and financial targets under this component shall be earmarked for the minority communities.

**2. Selection of Beneficiary & Procedure for Sponsoring Applications:**

The Community Organizers (COs) and professionals from Urban Local Body (ULB) will identify the prospective beneficiaries from among the urban poor. The community structures formed under Social Mobilization & Institutional Development (SM&ID) component of DAY- NULM viz. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Area Level Federations (ALFs) may also refer prospective individual and group entrepreneurs for purpose of financial assistance under SEP to ULB. The beneficiaries may directly approach ULB or its representatives for assistance. Banks may also identify prospective beneficiaries at their end and forward such cases directly to ULB. The Banks may also use their empaneled Business Correspondents (BCs) and Business Facilitators (BFs) to increase the outreach. Due diligence will be undertaken as per the Banks’ policy, in this regard.

2.1 The application for individual and group enterprise loans will be sponsored by the Urban Local Body (ULB) which will be the sponsoring agency for the individual and group enterprise.

2.2 The ULB will create awareness regarding SEP to the prospective beneficiaries through mass media campaigns, Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities, advertisements in local newspapers, City Livelihoods Centres (CLCs) etc. The ULB may also disseminate information regarding this component through active involvement of Resource Organizations and its field staff.

2.3 The beneficiaries desirous of seeking financial assistance for setting up an enterprise can submit an application of intent to the concerned ULB officials on a plain paper with basic details viz: Name, Age, Contact details, Address, Aadhaar details (if any), amount of loan required, bank account number (if available), type of enterprise/ activity, category etc. The intent could also be sent by mail /post to the ULB office. The ULB shall accept such intents throughout the year.

2.4 The community structures formed under Social Mobilization & Institutional Development (SM&ID) component of DAY-NULM viz: Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Area Level Federations (ALFs) may also refer prospective individual and group entrepreneurs for purpose of financial assistance under SEP to ULB.

2.5 On submission/receipt of the intent from the beneficiary the respective ULB will enter the details in a register/or MIS if available and hence will generate a waiting list of beneficiaries. The ULB will issue an acknowledgement to the beneficiary with a unique registration number, which may be used as a reference number for tracking the status of application.

2.6 ULB will call the beneficiaries in order of the waiting list to complete requisite documentation including filling of Loan Application Form (LAF), activity details, identity proof, address proof, bank account details etc. To verify the identity of the beneficiary, her/his Aadhar number will also be brought on record. If beneficiary does not have Aadhaar card, his/ her any other unique identification document like voters’ card, driving license etc. will be taken and s/he will be helped to obtain Aadhar card as soon as possible. The State Urban Livelihoods Mission (SULM) may develop a Loan Application Form (LAF) in suitable format in consultation with State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) convenor bank. The same LAF may be utilised across the State/UTs. The Loan Application Form (LAF) will contain basic data in respect of economic status of the beneficiary and her/his family. This data will be such that it can be used to analyse impact of the benefits on her/his economic status at a later stage.

2.7 A Task Force constituted at ULB level will scrutinize the applications based on experience, skills, viability of activity, scope of the activity etc. Thereafter, the Task Force will shortlist the applications and call for interview of the applicants before recommending or rejecting the application or call for additional information from the applicant if required.

2.8 The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ Municipal Commissioner of ULB will be responsible to constitute the Task Force and will be the Chairman of the Task force. There could be more than 1 task force at ULB level depending upon the size/population of the ULB.

2.9 The indicative composition of the Task Force is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sr. No.** | **TASK Force at ULB level** | **Role** |
| 1. | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) ULB/ Municipal Commissioner of ULB/ or any representative authorized by CEO ULB | Chairman |
| 2. | Lead District Manager (LDM) | Member |
| 3. | City Project Officer (CPO), ULB/ or any authorized representative of ULB | Member Convenor |
| 4. | Representative from District Industries Centre (DIC) | Member |
| 5. | Senior Branch Managers (Max-2) of banks | Member |
| 6. | Representatives(2) of Area Level Federation / City Level Federation | Member |

2.10 The task force will then recommend the applications if found suitable, reject if found unsuitable or ask the beneficiary to submit further requisite information for re-examination on case to case basis.

2.11 The case duly recommended by the task force will be forwarded by the ULB to the concerned banks for further processing. Such cases recommended by task force have to be processed by concerned banks within a time frame of 15 days. As these cases are already recommended by the task force, such cases should be rejected by banks only in exceptional circumstances.

2.12 The banks will send a periodic report to the ULB on the status of the applications received. In case of MIS being used, the banks may be allowed to update the status of application online in addition to manual report.

2.13 Banks may also directly accept the loan applications of urban poor beneficiaries on the basis of relevant documents as per the guidelines of Prime Minister MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) or any other such scheme without the need of having prior sponsoring from ULB. The banks can send details of such loans sanctioned by them to ULBs for confirmation of their eligibility for interest subsidy under DAY-NULM. Task Force constituted for scrutinizing applications should quickly clear these applications if they otherwise meet the criteria. On confirmation of their eligibility, interest subsidy may be claimed from ULBs on the pattern of interest subsidy claim for beneficiaries sponsored by ULBs. The subsidy will be transferred directly to the loan account of DAY-NULM beneficiaries. This procedure will also be direct benefit transfer compliant.

**3. Educational Qualifications and Training Requirement:**

No minimum educational qualification is required for prospective beneficiaries under this component. However, where the identified activity for micro-enterprise development requires some special skills appropriate training must be provided to the beneficiaries before extending financial support.

**3.1 Employment through Skills Training and Placement (EST&P):** Financial assistance should be extended only after the prospective beneficiary has acquired required skills for running the proposed micro-enterprise. Such training may not be necessary if the beneficiary has already undergone training from a known institution, registered NGO/Voluntary Organization or trained under any government scheme provided requisite certificate is produced. In case the beneficiary has acquired requisite skills from family occupation such cases should be certified by the ULB before extending financial assistance.

**3.2 Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP):**In addition to skill training of the beneficiaries, the ULB will also arrange to conduct Entrepreneurship Development Program for 3-7 days for individual and group entrepreneurs. The EDP will cover basics of entrepreneurship development such as management of an enterprise, basic accounting, financial management, marketing, backward and forward linkages, legal procedures, costing and revenue etc. In addition to above topics the module should also include group dynamics, allocation of work, profit sharing mechanism etc. for group enterprises.

3.3 The EDP module may be developed and finalized by State Urban Livelihoods Mission (SULM) supported by State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) with assistance of an empaneled institution/agency or consulting firm and same may be utilized for conducting training program by the ULB. This EDP training may be arranged through institutions such as Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), reputed institutions engaged in entrepreneurship development/ training, management/ educational institutes, reputed NGOs engaged in entrepreneurship development/ training etc.

**3.4 Follow-up entrepreneurial support to Individual and Group entrepreneurs:** After financing to Individual and Group beneficiaries, the ULB will also arrange to conduct follow-up Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) as and when required. Such programme should preferably be conducted once in six months for each beneficiary who has been given a loan. During the follow-up EDP, problems and issues faced by beneficiaries should also be discussed and solutions should be given.

**4. Pattern of Financial Assistance:**

The financial assistance available to urban poor in setting up individual and group enterprises will be in the form of Interest subsidy on the bank loans. Interest subsidy, over and above 7% rate of interest will be available on a bank loan for setting up of individual or group enterprises. The difference between 7% p.a. and the rate of interest charged by the bank will be provided to banks under DAY-NULM. Interest subsidy will be given only in case of timely repayment of loan. Suitable certification from banks will be obtained in this regard. An additional 3 percent interest subvention will be provided to all Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) who repay their loan in time. The Interest subsidy will be subject to timely repayment of the loan (as per the loan repayment schedule) and suitable certification obtained from banks by the ULB. The additional 3% interest subvention amount will be reimbursed to the eligible WSHGs. The banks should credit the amount of 3% interest subvention to the eligible WHSGs accounts and thereafter seek the reimbursement.

**5. Procedure for interest subsidy to Banks:**

5.1 All scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) and Small Finance Banks which are on the Core Banking Solution (CBS) platform would be eligible for getting interest subvention under the scheme.

5.2 After disbursement of loan to the beneficiaries, the concerned branch of the bank will send details of disbursed loan cases to ULB along with details of interest subsidy amount.

**Procedure I**

5.3 The submission and settlement of claims made by banks would be done on monthly basis. The ULB will check the data at their end and will release the interest subsidy amount (difference between 7% p.a. and prevailing rate of interest) to the banks.

5.4 Banks can upload XML file format for Master data and XML file format for Claim data for interest subsidy as per Data Structure Document available on [www.paisaportal.in](https://www.paisaportal.in/)

5.5 The claims should not be pending more than a quarter. In case the claims of the banks are not settled for a period of 6 months, SLBC is empowered to stop the scheme temporarily in selected cities subject to clearance of claims by such ULBs. In such eventualities, the claims settlement should prospectively be given to the Lead District Bank.

**Procedure - II**

**5.6 Settlement of Claims:** Nodal Agency for releasing interest subsidy: A public sector bank may be engaged at national level. All the Banks will consolidate data regarding interest subsidy from their branches and upload on the portal of Nodal Bank. The nodal bank, after verification by concerned ULB/states, will transfer the interest subsidy to the beneficiaries through DBT mode. The State/UT will deposit some funds in advance with the nodal bank, which will release funds as per guidelines of the DAY-NULM. Nodal bank will regularly render account of reimbursement to the SULM. This procedure will be followed in all three types of loans i.e. SEP (I), SEP (G) and SHG-Bank Linkage.

**6. Individual Enterprises (SEP-I)-Loan & Subsidy**

An urban poor individual beneficiary desirous of setting up an individual micro-enterprise for self-employment can avail benefit of subsidized loan under this component from any bank. The norms/ specifications for individual micro-enterprise loans are as follows:

**6.1 Age:** The prospective beneficiary should have attained the age of 18 Years at the time of applying for loan.

**6.2 Project Cost (PC):** The Maximum unit Project Cost for an individual micro-enterprise is ₹ 2,00,000 (₹ Two Lakhs).

**6.3 Collateral Guarantee on Bank Loan:** No collateral required. As per RBI [Circular RPCD.SME & NFS.BC.No.79/06.02.31/2009-10 dated May 6, 2010](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=5657&Mode=0) banks are mandated not to accept collateral security in the case of loans up to ₹ 10 lakhs extended to units in the MSE sector. Therefore, only the assets created would be hypothecated/ mortgaged/ pledged to banks for advancing loans. The banks may approach Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) setup by Small Industries Development Bank (SIDBI) or any other appropriate guarantee fund for the purpose of availing guarantee cover for SEP loans as per the eligibility of the activity for guarantee cover.

**6.4 Repayment:** Repayment schedule would range between 5 to 7 Years after initial moratorium of 6-18 months as per norms of the banks.

**6.5 Margin Money:** No margin money should be taken for a loan up to ₹ 50,000 and for higher amount loans, preferably 5% should be taken as margin money and it should in no case be more than 10% of the project cost.

**6.6 Type of Loan Facility:** Banks may extend finance to individuals for capital expenditure in the form of Term Loan and Working Capital loans through Cash Credit. Banks may also extend Composite Loans consisting of Capital Expenditure and Working Capital components, depending upon individual borrower’s requirement.

**7. Group Enterprises (SEP-G) -Loan & Subsidy**

A Self Help Group (SHG) or members of an SHG constituted under DAY-NULM or a group of urban poor for self-employment can avail benefit of subsidized loans under this component from any bank. The norms/ specifications for group based micro-enterprise loans are as follows:

**7.1 Eligibility Criteria:** The group enterprises should have minimum of Three (3) members with a minimum of 70% of the members from urban poor families. More than one person from the same family should not be included in the same group.

**7.2 Age:** All members of the group enterprise should have attained an age of 18 years at the time of applying for bank loan.

**7.3 Project Cost (PC):**The group will be eligible for a maximum loan of Rs. 2 Lakh per member or Rs. 10 Lakh, whichever is lower.

**7.4 Type of Loan:** Loan can be extended either as a single loan to the group functioning as one borrowing unit or each member of the group can be provided individual loans up to 2 lakhs and an overall cap of 10 lakhs based on the principal of joint liability of the group. The principles laid down in the RBI circular on “Budget (2014-15) Announcement Financing of Joint Farming Groups of ‘Bhoomi Heen Kisan’ dated 13th November, 2014” and subsequent revisions should be followed in case of loans to a group.

**7.5 Type of Loan Facility:** Banks may extend finance to groups for capital expenditure in the form of Term Loan and for Working Capital, through Cash Credit Facility. Banks may also extend Composite Loans for Capital Expenditure and Working Capital, depending upon Group’s requirement.

**7.6 Loan and Margin Money:** The Project Cost minus the beneficiary contribution (Margin Money) would be made available as loan amount to the group enterprise by the bank. No margin money should be taken for loan up to ₹ 50,000 and for higher amount loans, preferably 5% should be taken as margin money and it should in no case be more than 10% of the project cost.

**7.7 Collateral Guarantee on Bank Loan:** No collateral guarantee is required. Only the assets created would be hypothecated/ mortgaged/ pledged to banks for advancing loans. The banks may approach Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) or any other appropriate guarantee fund as detailed in Para-6.3.

**7.8 Repayment:** Repayment schedule would range between 5 to 7 Years after initial moratorium of 6-18 months as per the norms of the banks.

**8. SHG-Bank Linkage – General Guidelines**

Linking of SHGs with banks have been emphasized in the Monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India and Union Budget announcements from time to time and various guidelines in this regard have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks. To scale up the SHGs linkage program and make it sustainable, banks have been advised to consider lending to SHGs as part of their mainstream credit operations both at policy and implementation level.

8.1 Master Circular of RBI on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, [FIDD.FID.BC. No.06/12.01.033/2021-22 dated April 01, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=12063) contains instructions on opening of Savings Bank Account of Self Help Groups (whether registered or unregistered), which are engaged in promoting habit of savings among their members as a starting point. Thereafter, the SHGs may be sanctioned Savings Linked Loans (varying from a saving to loan ratio of 1:1 to 1:4) after due assessment or grading by banks. However, in case of matured SHGs, loans may be given beyond the limit of four times the savings as per the discretion of the bank. The Banks have also been instructed that the advances to SHGs irrespective of the purposes for which the members of SHGs should be included by the banks as part of their lending to the weaker sections.

8.2 Under Social Mobilization & Institution Development (SM&ID) component of DAY-NULM, the ULB will do necessary groundwork to open bank accounts for SHGs and facilitating access to Revolving Fund (RF). The ULB may also engage Resource Organization (RO) for the purpose or may directly facilitate SHGs through its staff. (Concept & Formation of SHGs, ROs and Revolving Fund has been detailed out in Social Mobilization & Institutional Development (SM&ID) component of DAY- NULM).

8.3 The banks will send the details of disbursed loan cases to the ULB along with the calculation details of the interest subsidy amount. The ULB will check the data at their end and will release the interest subsidy amount on monthly basis to the banks following a similar procedure as mentioned in Para 5.

8.4 The ULB through its field staff or Resource Organization (ROs) will facilitate filling of loan applications for eligible SHGs to access credit from the banks. The ULB will be responsible to forward the Loan application of the SHGs to the concerned banks with requisite documentation. The ULB will maintain area wise, bank-wise, ROs/ Staff wise data of SHGs loan applications forwarded to the banks. The same will be sent to SULM on a monthly basis.

8.5 In order to ensure effective SHG-Bank Linkage under DAY-NULM, the SULM will monitor and review the progress with banks on regular basis and co-ordinate with SLBC for interest subsidy/ subvention on SHG Loans in the state. Active involvement of State level Bankers’ Committee (SLBC) and lead banks may be ensured for sensitization of bank and branch staff for financial inclusion of urban poor.

8.6 It may be noted that the identification, selection, formation and monitoring of SHGs who are to get interest subvention would be the responsibility of State/ ULBs and banks would not be liable for wrong identification of SHGs who get interest subvention.

8.7 Type of Loan Facility: SHGs can avail either Term loan or a Cash Credit Limit (CCL) loan or both based on their needs. In case of need, additional loan can be sanctioned even though the previous loan is outstanding.

8.8 Guidelines for prompt repayment are as follows:

**a. For Cash Credit Limit to SHGs:**

i) Outstanding balance shall not have remained in excess of the sanctioned limit/drawing power continuously for more than 30 days.

ii) There shall be regular credits and debits in the account. In any case there shall be at least one customer induced credit during the month.

iii) Customer induced Credits during a month shall be sufficient to cover the interest debited during the month.

**b. For Term Loan to SHGs:** A term loan account where all of the interest payments and/or instalments of principal were paid within 30 days of the due date during the entire tenure of the loans would be considered as an account having prompt payment.

**9. Progress Reporting for SEP-I, SEP-G & SEP-SHG**

9.1 The ULB will prepare a data sheet of the applications recommended by the TASK force along with their status details of the sanction, disbursement and rejection (along with reasons) after validating the same with the respective banks. This data sheet will be sent to SULM on a monthly basis.

9.2 The SULM will compile all the reports received from respective ULBs and will communicate to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on a monthly basis.

9.3 SULM must ensure that progress under SEP is reviewed in every SLBC and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings. Any other important issue with regard to SEP may be taken up by SULM with SLBC convener bank for effective coordination and implementation.

**10. Credit Card for enterprise development**

10.1 The financial assistance to the individual entrepreneurs though subsidized loan for setting up of enterprises under DAY-NULM could be viewed as initial impetus to facilitate livelihood support to the urban poor. However, the individual entrepreneurs require further financial support in terms of working capital to make the enterprise economically sustainable. This may include immediate and short term monthly requirement of cash for meeting expenses for purchase of goods, raw materials and other miscellaneous expenditures etc. The micro-entrepreneur does not have a regular fixed monthly cash inflow/income to meet expenses arising out of entrepreneurial activities. To approach a financial institution for such immediate credit requirement, it requires procedural documentation and consumes a lot of time. This need for working capital credit is generally met from informal sources of credit (including money lenders) which is typically available at high rate of interest.

10.2 In order to support the micro-entrepreneurs to meet their working capital and miscellaneous credit needs, DAY-NULM will facilitate access to Credit Cards or MUDRA Card through banks.

10.3 The SULM in consultation with the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) will finalize the norms, limits and specifications for issuance of Credit Card (or) MUDRA Card to the individual entrepreneurs. The General Credit Card Scheme (GCC), which is being implemented by all scheduled commercial banks or any other variant of credit cards for enterprise development of banks in urban areas, may be explored by SULM and SLBC for the same. The Circular on revised GCC scheme has been issued by RBI notification vide [RPCD.MSME&NFS.BC.No.61/06.02.31/2013-14 dated December 02, 2013](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=8603&Mode=0) available on RBI web-site ‘[www.rbi.org.in](https://www.rbi.org.in/)’.

10.4 The ULB will identify the prospective beneficiaries and will facilitate linkages with banks for issuance of credit cards. The focus is to initially facilitate issuance of credit card to cover all the beneficiaries who have availed financial assistance under SEP. Additionally, other beneficiaries who are running their own business but have not availed assistance under SEP may also be covered if they satisfy the norms of issuance of credit cards.

10.5 The targets for the same may be decided at ULB level and the progress under this component is aggregated at SULM level and communicated to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) periodically.

**11. Technology, Marketing and Other Support**

11.1 Micro entrepreneurs often need support in order to grow and sustain their businesses. Support needed may be for establishment, technology, marketing, and other services. Micro entrepreneurs who run very small businesses may need to gain a better understanding of what the market needs, demand of the products produced by them, prices, where to sell, etc. Support services under this component are envisaged with a view to provide an encouraging environment for development of micro enterprises.

11.2 The City Livelihoods Centers (CLCs) established under DAY-NULM will offer services to the micro-enterprises such as in establishment (licenses, certificates registration, legal services etc.), production, procurement, technology, processing, marketing, sales, packaging, accounting etc. for long term sustainability. CLCs will also provide support in taking up feasibility/ assessment studies on market demand and market strategy for products and services of micro-enterprises.

11.3 All SEP individual and groups enterprises can avail the services from CLCs as per the norms of CLCs. The CLCs with support of ULB may also tie up with various other government schemes which offer services and benefits for micro-enterprise development for the benefit of prospective beneficiaries.

11.4 The SULM may arrange for additional funds/professional assistance for the purpose of providing above services to CLCs.

**12. Funding Pattern of SEP of DAY-NULM**

12.1 Funding under this component will be shared between the Centre and the States as per the general norms under DAY-NULM.

12.2 The Ministry will allocate funds to the states on annual basis based on the targets assigned to the states. The states in consultation with the respective SLBCs and ULBs will decide the targets and corresponding funds will be allocated to ULBs so that full reimbursement to the banks on account of Interest subvention is settled during the financial year and no subvention amount remain overdue or pending with the States.

**13. Monitoring and Evaluation**

13.1 The State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) at the State level and City Mission Management Unit (CMMU) at the ULB level will closely monitor progress of activities / targets under this component, undertake reporting and evaluation. The SULM and the ULB/executing agencies shall report timely progress in formats prescribed by the Mission Directorate from time-to-time, indicating the cumulative achievement monthly and up to the end of the quarter and key issues in implementation.

13.2 In addition, under DAY-NULM, a comprehensive and robust IT-enabled DAY-NULM MIS will be established for tracking targets and achievements. States and ULBs will be required to submit their progress reports online and may also use this tool to monitor progress on the ground. In the spirit of proactive disclosure of information and ensuring transparency under DAY-NULM, key progress reports under SEP will also be made available in the public domain in a timely manner.

13.3 All the SEP beneficiaries should be visited periodically to assess the impact of the benefit and also to know any problem being faced by them. The Community Organisers (COs) should visit all the beneficiaries in their jurisdiction at least once in three months. The project officer/ technical experts at CMMU level should visit at least 50% beneficiaries once in three months. The observations during the field visit should be kept in record and be uploaded on MIS also.

13.4 During the field visit mentioned above data on economic status of the beneficiaries should be collected and be compared with similar data given in loan application form, to know the impact of the benefit on the economic conditions of the beneficiaries.

13.5 Impact analysis studies may also be conducted at suitable interval to assess the impact of benefit under SEP on the economic status of the beneficiaries.

13.6 To monitor progress of the targets vis-a-vis achievement under DAY-NULM, Banks are advised to furnish cumulative progress reports on quarterly basis as per enclosed proforma ([Annex I](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/MC12_05042021AN1.pdf) & [II](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/MC12_05042021AN2.pdf)) to the Director, NULM as well as to RBI on email latest by the end of next month of the quarter to which they relate.

13.7 **Unique Code for loans under NULM:** Banks are advised to categorise these loans under Non-Farm sector and use unique sub-code in their database for loans granted under NULM. Further, separate sub-sub-codes may also be assigned for SEP-I, SEP-G, SHG and WSHGs. Proper care must be taken while classifying loans under NULM particularly relating to SHG and WSHGs to enable distinct identification of these loans vis-à-vis NRLM loans as WSHGs are eligible for additional 3 percent interest subvention.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12066&Mode=0>

**Master Circular - Credit facilities to Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs)**

**RBI/2021-22/11 FIDD.CO.GSSD.BC.No.05/09.09.001/2021-22 April 05, 2021**

*The Chairman & Managing Director \ CEO, All Scheduled Commercial Banks & Small Finance Banks*

Please refer to the [Master Circular FIDD.CO.GSSD.BC.No.03/09.09.001/2019-20 dated July 01, 2019](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11612&Mode=0) consolidating guidelines / Instructions / directions issued to banks with regard to providing credit facilities to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Banks should take the following measures to step up their advances to SCs / STs:

**1. Planning Process**

1.1 The District Level Consultative Committees formed under the Lead Bank Scheme should continue to be the principal mechanism of co-ordination between banks and development agencies in this regard.

1.2 The district credit plans formulated by the lead banks should clearly indicate the linkage of credit with employment and development schemes.

1.3 Banks will have to establish closer liaison with the District Industries Centres, which have been set up in different districts for promoting self-employment.

1.4 At the block level, a certain weightage is to be given to scheduled castes / scheduled tribes in the planning process. Accordingly, the credit planning should be weighted in favour of scheduled castes / scheduled tribes and special bankable schemes suited to members of these communities should be drawn up to ensure their participation in such schemes and larger flow of credit to them for self-employment. It will be necessary for the banks to consider loan proposals of these communities with utmost sympathy and understanding.

1.5 Banks should periodically review their lending procedures and policies to see that loans are sanctioned in time, are adequate and production-oriented and that they generate incremental income to make them self-liquidating.

1.6 While 'adopting' villages for intensive lending, villages with sizeable population of these communities may be specially chosen; the alternative of adopting specific localities (bastis) in the concerned villages which have a concentration of these communities could also be considered.

**2. Role of Banks**

2.1 Bank staff may help the poor borrowers in filling up the forms and completing other formalities so that they are able to get credit facility within a stipulated period from the date of receipt of applications.

2.2 In order to encourage SC / ST borrowers to take advantage of credit facilities, greater awareness among them about various schemes formulated by banks will have to be created. As a majority of the eligible borrowers would be illiterate persons, publicity through brochures, other literature, etc. will be of limited utility. The more desirable method would be for the field staff of banks to contact such borrowers and explain to them the salient features of the schemes as also the advantages that will accrue. Banks should advise their branches to organize meetings more frequently exclusively for SC / ST beneficiaries to understand their credit needs and to incorporate the same in the credit plan.

2.3 Circulars issued by RBI / NABARD should be circulated among the staff for compliance.

2.4 Banks should not insist on deposits while considering loan applications under Government sponsored poverty alleviation schemes / self-employment programmes from borrowers belonging to SCs / STs. It should also be ensured that applicable subsidy is not held back while releasing the loan component till the full repayment of bank dues. Non-release of subsidy upfront amounts to under-financing and hampers asset creation / income generation.

2.5 The National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation and National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation have been set up under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, respectively. The banks should advise their branches / controlling offices to render all the necessary institutional support to enable the institution to achieve the desired objectives.

2.6 Advances sanctioned to State sponsored organizations of SC / ST, for the specific purpose of purchase and supply of inputs to and / or the marketing of outputs of the beneficiaries viz. artisans, village and cottage industries of these organizations, should be treated as Priority Sector Advances, subject to the condition that the relative advances are exclusively for the purpose of purchase and supply of inputs to and / or marketing of the outputs of beneficiaries of these organizations.

2.7 Rejection of loan applications in respect of SCs / STs should be done at the next higher level instead of at the branch level and reasons of rejection should be clearly indicated.

**3. Role of SC / ST Development Corporations**

The Government of India has advised all State Governments that the Scheduled Caste/ Tribes Development Corporations can consider bankable schemes / proposals for bank finance. As regards Collateral Security and / or third-party guarantee for loans, guidelines issued to banks on priority sector lending will apply.

**4. Reservations for SC / ST Beneficiaries under Major Centrally Sponsored Schemes.**

There are several major centrally sponsored schemes under which credit is provided by banks and subsidy is received through Government Agencies. Credit flow under these schemes is monitored by RBI. Under each of these, there is a significant reservation / relaxation for the members of the SC / ST communities.

1. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission:

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has launched Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) by restructuring erstwhile Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, effective from April 01, 2013. DAY-NRLM would ensure adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society such that 50% of these beneficiaries are SC/STs. Details of the scheme are available in the Master Circular on NRLM ([FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No 04/09.01.01/2021-22 dated April 01, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=12062" \t "_blank)).

1. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, has launched the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) by restructuring erstwhile Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), effective from September 24, 2013, Under DAY-NULM, advances should be extended to SCs / STs to the extent of their strength in the local population. Details of the scheme are available in the Master Circular on DAY-NULM ([FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.03/09.16.03/2021-22 dated April 05, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=12066)).

1. Differential Rate of Interest Scheme

Under the DRI Scheme, banks provide finance up to ₹15,000/- at a concessional rate of interest of 4 percent per annum to the weaker sections of the community for engaging in productive and gainful activities. In order to ensure that persons belonging to SCs / STs also derive adequate benefit under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, banks have been advised to grant to eligible borrowers belonging to SCs / STs such advances to the extent of not less than 2/5th (40 percent) of total DRI advances. Further, the eligibility criteria under DRI that size of land holding should not exceed 1 acre of irrigated land and 2.5 acres of unirrigated land are not applicable to SCs / STs. Members of SCs / STs satisfying the income criteria of the scheme can also avail of housing loan up to ₹20,000/- per beneficiary over and above the individual loan of ₹15,000/- available under the scheme.

**5. Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes (CEGSSC)**

The CEGSSC was launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 6th May, 2015 with the objective to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes (SCs), by providing Credit Enhancement Guarantee to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), who shall be providing financial assistance to these entrepreneurs. IFCI Ltd. has been designated as the Nodal Agency under the scheme, to issue the guarantee cover in favour of MLIs, who shall be encouraged to finance SCs entrepreneurs to boost entrepreneurship amongst the marginal strata of the society.

Eligibility: Registered Companies and Societies/Registered Partnership Firms/Sole Proprietorship firms/Individual SC Entrepreneur having more than 51% shareholding by SC entrepreneurs/promoters/members with the management control for the past 6 months are eligible for guarantee from IFCI Ltd. against the loans extended by MLIs Bank / Institutions.

Amount of Guarantee cover under CEGSSC- Min ₹ 0.15 Cr. & Max. ₹ 5.00 Cr

Tenure of Guarantee – Max. 7 years or repayment period whichever is earlier.

**6. Monitoring and Review**

6.1 A special cell should be set up at the Head Office of banks for monitoring the flow of credit to SC / ST beneficiaries. Apart from ensuring the implementation of the RBI guidelines, the cell would also be responsible for collection of relevant information / data from the branches, consolidation thereof and submission of the requisite returns to RBI and Government.

6.2 SLBC convenor Bank should invite the representative of National Commission for SCs / STs to attend SLBC meetings. Besides, the Convener bank may also invite representatives from National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (SCDC) to attend SLBC meetings.

6.3 A periodical review should be made by the Head Office of banks of the credit extended to SCs / STs on the basis of returns and other data received from the branches.

6.4 Bank should review the measures taken to enhance the flow of credit to SC / ST borrowers on a quarterly basis. The Review should also consider the progress made in lending to these communities directly or through the State Level Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe Corporations for various purposes based, amongst others, on field visits of the senior officers from the Head Office / Controlling Offices. Any major gap or variation in credit flow to SC/ST on a year to year basis should be reported to Board of the Bank for review under the themes of “Financial Inclusion” in term of [circular DBR No.BC.93/29.67.001/2014-15 dated May14, 2015](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=9722&Mode=0).

**7. Reporting Requirements**

Data on advances to SCs and STs should be reported as prescribed in Master Direction under Priority sector lending vide [Master Direction FIDD.CO.Plan.5/04.09.01/2020-21 dated September 04, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=11959). Banks are advised to submit the same in a timely manner.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12065&Mode=0>

**Master Circular on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme**

**RBI/2021-22/09 FIDD.CO.FID.BC.No.06/12.01.033/2021-22 April 01, 2021**

*The Chairman/ Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, All Scheduled Commercial Banks*

The Reserve Bank of India has, from time to time, issued a number of guidelines/instructions to banks on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme. In order to enable banks to have instructions at one place, the Master Circular incorporating the existing guidelines/ instructions on the subject has been updated and enclosed.

Self Help Groups have the potential to bring together the formal banking structure and the rural poor for mutual benefit. Studies conducted by NABARD in a few states to assess the impact of the linkage project have brought out encouraging and positive features like increase in loan volume of the SHGs, definite shift in the loaning pattern of the members from non-income generating activities to production activities, nearly 100 per cent recovery performance, significant reduction in the transaction costs for both the banks and the borrowers etc., besides leading to a gradual increase in the income level of the SHG members. Another significant feature observed in the linkage project is that about 85 per cent of the groups linked with banks were formed exclusively by women.

2. Recognizing the importance of SHG Bank linkage, banks have been advised to meet the entire credit requirements of SHG members, as envisaged in Paragraph 93 of the Union Budget announcement for the year 2008-09, made by the Honorable Finance Minister, wherein it was stated as under: "Banks will be encouraged to embrace the concept of Total Financial Inclusion. Government will request all scheduled commercial banks to follow the example set by some public sector banks and meet the entire credit requirements of SHG members, namely, (a) income generation activities, (b) social needs like housing, education, marriage, etc. and (c) debt swapping". Linking of SHGs with banks has thus been emphasized in the Monetary Policy Statements of Reserve Bank of India and Union Budget announcements from time to time and various guidelines have been issued to banks in this regard.

3. Banks should provide adequate incentives to their branches in financing the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and establish linkages with them, making the procedures simple and easy. The group dynamics of working of the SHGs need neither be regulated nor formal structures imposed or insisted upon. The approach to financing of SHGs should be totally hassle-free and may also include consumption expenditures. Accordingly, the following guidelines should be adhered to enable effective linkage of SHGs with the banking sector.

**4. Opening of Savings Bank A/C**

The SHGs, registered or unregistered, which are engaged in promoting savings habit among their members are eligible to open savings bank accounts with banks. These SHGs need not necessarily have already availed of credit facilities from banks before opening savings bank accounts. The instructions on simplified Customer Due Diligence (CDD) applicable to SHGs as prescribed in Part VI of the [Master Direction - Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=11566) (as updated from time to time) shall be adhered to.

**5. Lending to SHGs**

a) Bank lending to SHGs should be included in branch credit plan, block credit plan, district credit plan and state credit plan of each bank. Utmost priority should be accorded to the sector in preparation of these plans. It should also form an integral part of the bank’s corporate credit plan.

b) As per operational guidelines issued by NABARD, SHGs may be sanctioned savings linked loans by banks (varying from a saving to loan ratio of 1:1 to 1:4). However, in case of matured SHGs, loans may be given beyond the limit of four times the savings as per the discretion of the bank.

c) A simple system requiring minimum procedures and documentation is a precondition for augmenting flow of credit to SHGs. Banks should strive to remove all operational irritants and make arrangements to expeditiously sanction and disburse credit by delegating adequate sanctioning powers to branch managers. The loan application forms, procedures and documents should be made simple. It would help in providing prompt and hassle-free credit.

**6. Interest rates**

The banks would have the discretion to decide on the interest rates applicable to loans given to Self Help Groups/member beneficiaries, subject to regulatory guidelines on interest rate on advances contained in Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Advances) Directions, 2016 issued vide [DBR.Dir.No.85/13.03.00/2015-16 dated March 3, 2016](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=10295), as amended from time to time.

**7. Service/ Processing charges**

No loan related and ad hoc service charges/inspection charges should be levied on priority sector loans up to ₹ 25,000. In the case of eligible priority sector loans to SHGs/ JLGs, this limit will be applicable per member and not to the group as a whole.

**8. Separate Segment under priority sector**

Loans to SHGs are allowed to be classified under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) under the respective categories viz Agriculture, MSME, Social Infrastructure and others, subject to extant guidelines of Master Directions – Priority Sector Lending (PSL) – Targets and Classification issued vide [Master Directions FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.5/04.09.01/2020-21 dated September 4, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=11959&fn=2754&Mode=0), as amended from time to time.

**9. Presence of defaulters in SHGs**

Defaults by a few members of SHGs and/or their family members to the financing bank should not ordinarily come in the way of financing SHGs per se by banks, provided the SHG is not in default. However, the bank loan may not be utilized by the SHG for financing a defaulter member to the bank.

**10. Capacity Building and Training**

a) Banks may initiate suitable steps to internalize the SHGs linkage project and organize exclusive short duration programmes for the field level functionaries. In addition, suitable awareness/sensitization programmes may be conducted for their middle level controlling officers as well as senior officers.

b) Banks shall refer to instructions on Financial Literacy by FLCs and rural branches – Policy review vide [Circular FIDD.FLC.BC.No.22/12.01.018/2016-17 dated March 02, 2017](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10869&Mode=0) conducting tailored programs targeting [SHGs](https://www.rbi.org.in/FinancialEducation/content/04SELFHELP20042018.pdf).

**11. Monitoring and Review of SHG Lending**

Considering the potential of SHGs, banks shall closely monitor the progress regularly at various levels. In order to give a boost to the ongoing SHG bank linkage programme for credit flow to the unorganized sector, monitoring of SHG bank linkage programme shall be a regular item on the agenda for discussion at the SLBC and DCC meetings. It should be reviewed at the highest corporate level on a quarterly basis. Further, progress of the programme may be reviewed by banks at regular intervals. The progress under SHG-BLP, as prescribed vide RBI letter FIDD.CO.FID.No.3387/12.01.033/2017-18 dated April 26, 2018 shall be reported to NABARD (Micro Credit Innovations Department), Mumbai, on a quarterly basis, and the returns in the [prescribed format](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/SHGLPR210515_AN.pdf) shall be submitted within 15 days from due date.

**12. Reporting to CICs**

Recognizing the importance of credit information reporting in respect of the SHG members for financial inclusion, banks are advised to adhere to the guidelines on [Credit information reporting in respect of Self Help Group (SHG) members dated June 16, 2016](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10449&Mode=0) and [Credit information reporting in respect of Self Help Group (SHG) members dated January 14, 2016](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10227&Mode=0).

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12063&Mode=0>

**Master Circular – Lead Bank Scheme**

**RBI/2021-22/04 FIDD.CO.LBS.BC.No.02/02.01.001/2021-22 April 01, 2021**

*The Chairmen/ Managing Directors/ Chief Executive Officers, SLBC/ UTLBC Convenor Banks / Lead Banks*

The Reserve Bank of India has issued a number of guidelines/instructions on Lead Bank Scheme from time to time. This [Master Circular](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12064&Mode=0#MC1) consolidates the relevant guidelines/ instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India on Lead Bank Scheme up to March 31, 2021 as listed in the [Appendix](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12064&Mode=0#APP).

For Detailed Master Circular: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12064&Mode=0>

**Master Circular – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

**RBI/2021-22/05 FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.04/09.01.01/2021-22 April 01, 2021**

*The Chairman/ Managing Director & CEO, Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks (including Small Finance Banks).*

Please refer to the [Master Circular FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.06/09.01.01/2020-21 dated September 18, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=11967) on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

**1. Background**

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) by restructuring Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) with effect from 01st April 2013 ([RBI Circular No. RBI/2012-13/559 dated 27 June 2013](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=8075&Mode=0)). NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission) w.e.f. March 29, 2016. The DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions of the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods. DAY-NRLM adopts a demand driven approach, enabling the States to formulate their own State specific poverty reduction action plans. The blocks and districts in which all the components of DAY-NRLM would be implemented, either through the SRLMs or partner institutions or NGOs, would be the intensive blocks and districts, whereas remaining would be non-intensive blocks and districts. The key features of DAY-NRLM have been furnished in [Annex I](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12062&Mode=0#A_1).

**2. Women SHGs and their Federations**

**2.1** Women SHGs under DAY-NRLM consist of 10-20 persons. In case of special SHGs i.e. groups in the difficult areas, groups with disabled persons, and groups formed in remote tribal areas, this number may be a minimum of 5 persons.

**2.2** DAY-NRLM promotes affinity-based women Self Help Groups (SHGs).

**2.3** Only for groups to be formed with Persons with disabilities, and other special categories like elder, transgender, DAY-NRLM will have both men and women in the Self-Help Groups.

**2.4** SHG is an informal group and registration under any Societies Act, State cooperative Act or a partnership firm is not mandatory vide Circular RPCD.No. Plan BC.13/PL-09.22/90-91 dated July 24th, 1991. However, Federations of Self Help Groups formed at Village, Gram Panchayat, Cluster or higher level may be registered under appropriate acts prevailing in their respective states.

**Financial Assistance to the SHGs**

**3. Revolving Fund:** DAY-NRLM, MoRD, would provide Revolving Fund (RF) support to SHGs in existence for a minimum period of 3/6 month and follow the norms of good SHGs, i.e. they follow ‘Panchasutra’ – regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular recoveries and maintenance of proper books of accounts. Only such SHGs that have not received any RF earlier would be provided with RF, as corpus, with a minimum of ₹10,000 and up to a maximum of ₹15,000 per SHG. The purpose of RF is to strengthen their institutional and financial management capacity and build a good credit history within the group.

**4. Capital Subsidy has been discontinued under DAY-NRLM:**

No Capital Subsidy would be sanctioned to any SHG from the date of implementation of DAY-NRLM.

**5. Community Investment Support Fund (CIF)**

CIF would be provided by MoRD to the SHGs promoted under DAY – NRLM in all blocks (intensive and non-intensive) and would be routed through the Village level/ Cluster level Federations, to be maintained in perpetuity by the Federations. The CIF would be used, by the Federations, to advance loans to the SHGs and/or to undertake the common/collective socio-economic activities.

**6. Introduction of Interest subvention:**

DAY-NRLM has a provision for interest subvention, to cover the difference between the Lending Rate of the banks and 7%, on all credit from the banks/ financial institutions availed by women SHGs, for a maximum of ₹ 300,000/- per SHG. This would be available across the country in two ways:

(i) In 250 identified districts, banks may lend to the women SHGs @7% up to an aggregated loan amount of ₹300,000/-. The banks would be subvented to the extent of difference between the Weighted Average Interest Charged and 7%, subject to the maximum limit of 5.5%. An additional interest subvention of 3% is also available on prompt repayment by the SHGs, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%.

(ii) In the remaining districts, the banks may lend at their respective lending rates, applicable to SHGs. In these districts, all women SHGs under DAY– NRLM would be eligible for interest subvention on prompt repayment. The difference between the bank lending rates and 7% for loans up to ₹ 300,000/- subject to a maximum limit of 5.5%, would be subvented directly in the loan accounts of the SHGs by the SRLMs. This part of the scheme would be operationalized by the SRLMs.

* Salient features of the Scheme are enclosed in [Annex II](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12062&Mode=0#A_2).
* The list of 250 identified districts is as per [Annex III](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12062&Mode=0#A_3).
* Subvented interest rate would be communicated separately to the banks by GoI/RBI.

**7. Role of banks:**

**7.1 Opening of Savings account:**

**7.1.1 Opening of Savings account of SHGs:** The role of banks would commence with opening of accounts for all the Women SHGs including members with disability and the Federations of the SHGs. The SHGs engaged in promoting of savings habits among their members would be eligible to open savings bank accounts.

1. Know Your Customer (KYC) verification of only the office bearers shall suffice for opening of savings bank account.
2. Banks may not insist on Permanent Account Number (PAN) of SHGs at the time of opening of account or transactions and may accept declaration in Form No 60 as may be required.
3. For KYC verification pertaining to SHG members during opening of accounts, instructions of Department of Banking Regulation in [Master Direction on KYC (dated February 25, 2016](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=11566), updated as on March 23, 2021) shall be adhered to while completing Customer Due Diligence (CDD) process. CDD means identifying and verifying the customer and the beneficial owner. Accordingly, the current instructions under Simplified norms for Self Help Groups (SHGs) mention that while opening of accounts Customer Due Diligence (CDD) of all the members of SHG shall not be required and CDD of only the office bearers shall suffice. At the time of credit linking of SHGs, banks may undertake KYC verification of all the members in the SHG. However, opening of savings account of all members with the bank shall not be made a prerequisite for credit linkage of SHGs. Banks are advised to maintain separate Savings and loan account for Self Help Groups.
4. Business Correspondents deployed by banks may also be authorized to open Saving Bank Accounts of the SHGs after verification/approval of the base branch, subject to adherence to extant BC guidelines and in accordance with the bank’s Board approved policy on Business Correspondents. However, ensuring compliance with KYC and AML norms under the BC model continues to be the responsibility of the banks.

**7.1.2 Opening of Savings account of Federation of SHGs:** Banks are advised to open savings account of Federations of SHGs at village, Gram Panchayat, Cluster or higher level. These accounts may be categorized as savings account for ‘Association of persons’. The ‘Know Your Customer’ (KYC) norms for the signatories of such accounts as specified from time to time by Reserve Bank of India would be applicable.

**7.1.3 Opening of Current Account of Producer Groups (PGs):** In order to facilitate collective production and marketing for their produce, banks are advised to open current account for Producer Groups promoted under DAY-NRLM at village, Gram Panchayat, Cluster or higher level. The ‘Know Your Customer’ (KYC) norms for the signatories of such accounts as specified from time to time by Reserve Bank of India would be applicable.

**7.1.4 Transaction in Savings/Cash Credit account of SHGs and Federation of SHGs:** SHGs and their federations may be encouraged to transact through their respective saving accounts and Cash Credit Loan accounts on regular basis. To facilitate this, banks are advised to enable transactions in jointly operated savings/Cash Credit account of SHGs and their federations with interoperable facility at retail outlets managed by Business Correspondents. Banks are also advised to extend all such services to SHGs and their federations through Business Correspondents as per their board approved policies.

**7.2 Lending Norms to individual SHG members and SHGs**

**7.2.1 The eligibility criteria for the SHGs to avail loans:**

* SHGs should be in active existence at least since the last 6 months as per the books of account of SHGs and not from the date of opening of S/B account.
* SHGs should be practicing ‘Panchasutras’ i.e. Regular meetings; Regular savings; Regular inter-loaning; Timely repayment; and Up-to-date books of accounts;
* Qualified as per grading norms fixed by NABARD. As and when the federations of the SHGs come to existence, the grading exercise may be done by the Federations to support the banks.
* The existing defunct SHGs are also eligible for credit if they are revived and continue to be active for a minimum period of 3 months.

**7.2.2 Loan Application:** It is advised that all banks may use the Common Loan Application Forms recommended by Indian Bank’s Association (IBA) for extending credit facility to SHGs.

**7.2.3 Loan amount:** Emphasis is laid on the multiple doses of assistance under DAY- NRLM. This would mean assisting an SHG over a period of time, through repeat doses of credit, to enable them to access higher amounts of credit for taking up sustainable livelihoods and improve on the quality of life.

SHGs may avail either Term Loan (TL) or a Cash Credit Limit (CCL) loan or both based on the need. In case of need, additional loan may be sanctioned even though the previous loan is outstanding, based on the repayment behavior and performance of the SHG.

The amount of credit under different facilities are as follows:

**Cash Credit Limit (CCL):** In case of CCL, banks are advised to sanction minimum loan of ₹ 6 lakh to each eligible SHGs for a period of 3 years with a yearly drawing power (DP). The drawing power may be enhanced annually based on the repayment performance of the SHG. The drawing power may be calculated as follows:

* DP for First Year: 6 times of the existing corpus or minimum of ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher
* DP for Second Year: 8 times of the corpus at the time review/ enhancement or minimum of ₹2 lakh, whichever is higher
* DP for Third Year: Minimum of ₹6 lakh based on the Micro credit plan prepared by SHG and appraised by the Federations /Support agency and the previous credit history.
* DP for Fourth Year onwards: Above ₹6 lakh, based on the Micro credit plan prepared by SHG and appraised by the Federations /Support agency and the previous credit History.

**Term Loan:** In case of Term Loan, banks are advised to sanction loan amount in doses as mentioned below:

* First Dose: 6 times of the existing corpus or minimum of ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher
* Second Dose: 8 times of the existing corpus or minimum of ₹2 lakh, whichever is higher
* Third Dose: Minimum of ₹6 lakh, based on the Micro credit plan prepared by the SHGs and appraised by the Federations /Support agency and the previous credit history.
* Fourth Dose onwards: Above ₹6 lakh, based on the Micro credit plan prepared by the SHGs and appraised by the Federations /Support agency and the previous credit History.

Banks are advised take necessary measures to ensure that eligible SHGs are provided with repeat loans. Banks are advised to coordinate with DAY-NRLM to institutionalize a mechanism for online submission of loan application from SHGs for tracking and timely disposal of application.

(Corpus is inclusive of revolving funds, if any, received by that SHG, its own savings, interest earning by SHG from on-lending to its members, income from other sources, and funds from other sources in case of promotion by other institutes/NGOs.)

**7.3 Purpose of loan and repayment:**

**7.3.1** The loan amount would be distributed among members based on the Micro Credit Plan (MCP) prepared by the SHGs. The loans may be used by members for meeting social needs, high cost debt swapping, construction or repair of house, construction of toilets and taking up sustainable livelihoods by the individual members within the SHGs or to finance any viable common activity started by the SHGs.

**7.3.2** In order to facilitate use of loans for augmenting livelihoods of SHG members, it is advised that at least 50% of loans above ₹2 lakh, 75% of loans above ₹4 lakh and at least 85% of loans above ₹6 lakh be used primarily for income generating productive purposes. Micro Credit Plan (MCP) prepared by SHGs would form the basis for determining the purpose and usage of loans.

**7.3.3** Repayment schedule for Term Loans may be as follows:

* The First dose of loan may be repaid in 24-36 months in monthly/Quarterly Instalments.
* The Second dose of loan may be repaid in 36-48 months in monthly/Quarterly instalments.
* The Third dose of loan may be repaid in 48-60 months based on the cash flow in monthly/Quarterly instalments.
* The loan from Fourth dose onwards may be repaid between 60-84 months based on the cash flow in monthly/ quarterly installments.

**7.3.4** All facilities sanctioned under DAY- NRLM would be governed by the Asset Classification norms issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

**7.4. Security and Margin:**

No collateral and no margin would be charged up to ₹10.00 lakh limit to the SHGs. No lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans

**7.5. Dealing with Defaulters:**

It is desirable that willful defaulters should not be financed under DAY-NRLM. In case willful defaulters are members of a group, they might be allowed to benefit from the thrift and credit activities of the group including the corpus built up with the assistance of Revolving Fund. But at the stage of accessing bank loan by SHG for financing economic activities by its members, the willful defaulters should not have the benefit of such bank loan until the outstanding loans are repaid. Willful defaulters of the group should not get benefits under the DAY-NRLM Scheme and the group may be financed excluding such defaulters while documenting the loan. However, banks should not deny loan to entire SHG on the pretext that spouse or other family members of individual members of SHG being a defaulter with the bank. Further, non-willful defaulters should not be debarred from receiving the loan. In case default is due to genuine reasons, banks may follow the norms suggested for restructuring the account with revised repayment schedule.

**8 Credit Target Planning**

**8.1** Based on the Potential Linked Plan/State Focus Paper prepared by NABARD, SLBC sub-committee on SHG Bank Linkage may arrive at the district-wise, block-wise and branch-wise credit plan. The sub- committee should consider the existing SHGs, New SHGs proposed, and number of SHGs eligible for fresh and repeat loans as suggested by the SRLMs to arrive at the credit targets for the states. The targets so decided should be approved in the SLBC and reviewed and monitored periodically for effective implementation.

**8.2** The district-wise credit plans should be communicated to the DCC. The Block- wise/Cluster-wise targets are to be communicated to the bank branches through the Controllers.

**9 Post credit follow- up**

**9.1** Loan pass books or statement of accounts in regional languages may be issued to the SHGs which may contain all the details of the loans disbursed to them and the terms and conditions applicable to the loan sanctioned. The passbook should be updated with every transaction made by the SHGs. At the time of documentation and disbursement of loan, it is advisable to clearly explain the terms and conditions as part of financial literacy.

**9.2** Bank branches may observe one fixed day in a fortnight to enable the staff to go to the field and attend the meetings of the SHGs and Federations to observe the operations of the SHGs and keep a track of the regularity in the SHGs meetings and performance.

**10 Repayment:**

Prompt repayment of the loans is necessary to ensure the success of the programme. Banks shall take all possible measures, i.e. personal contact, organization of joint recovery camps with District Mission Management Units (DPMUs) /District Rural Development Agency(DRDAs) to ensure the recovery of loans. Keeping in view, the importance of loan recovery, banks should prepare a list of defaulting SHGs under DAY-NRLM every month and furnish the list in the BLBC, DCC meetings. This would ensure that DAY-NRLM staff at the district/ block level would assist the bankers in initiating the repayment

**11 Supervision and monitoring of the Scheme**

Banks may set up cells for Self Help Groups at respective Regional/Zonal offices of banks. These cells should periodically monitor and review the flow of credit to the SHGs, ensure the implementation of the guidelines to the scheme, collect data from the branches and make available consolidated data to the Head office and the DAY-NRLM units at the districts/ blocks. The cell should also discuss this consolidated data in the SLBC, BLBC and DCC meetings regularly to maintain the effective communication with the state staff and all banks.

**11.1** State Level Bankers’ Committee: SLBCs shall constitute a sub-committee on SHG bank linkage. The sub-committee should consist of members from all banks operating in the State, RBI, NABARD, CEO of SRLM, representatives of State Rural Development Department, Secretary-Institutional Finance and Representatives of Development Departments etc. The sub- committee shall discuss a specific agenda of review, implementation and monitoring of the SHG-Bank linkage and the issues/ constraints in achievement of the credit target. The decisions of SLBCs should be derived from the analysis of the reports of the sub-committee.

**11.2** District Coordination Committee: The DCC shall regularly monitor the flow of credit to SHGs at the district level and resolve issues that constrain the flow of credit to the SHGs at district level. This committee should have participation of LDMs, AGM of NABARD, district coordinators of the banks and DPMU staff representing DAY-NRLM and office bearers of SHG federations

**11.3** Block level Bankers Committee: The BLBC shall take up issues of SHG bank linkage at the block level. In this Committee, the SHGs/ Federations of the SHGs should be included as members to raise their voice in the forum. Branch wise status of SHG credit shall be monitored at the BLBC.

**11.4** Reporting to Lead District Managers: The branches may furnish the progress report and the delinquency report achieved under various activities of DAY-NRLM in the format at [Annex–IV](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/05MC01042021_A4.pdf) and [Annex-V](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/05MC01042021_A5.pdf) to the LDM every month for onward submission to Special Steering Committee/sub-committee constituted by SLBC.

**11.5** Reporting to RBI: Banks may give a state-wise consolidated report on the progress made on DAY-NRLM to RBI/NABARD at quarterly intervals. The data may be submitted within a month from the end of the concerned quarter.

**11.6** LBR returns: Existing procedure of submitting LBR returns to be continued duly furnishing the correct code

**12 Financial Literacy:** Financial Literacy is one of the important strategies to spread awareness on financial behavior and keep households informed about various financial products and services. DAY-NRLM has trained and deployed a large number of cadre called ‘Financial Literacy Community Resource Persons (FL-CRPs)’ to carry out financial literacy camps at village level. Financial Literacy Centers (FLC) established by various banks may coordinate with respective SRLMs and utilize the services of FL-CRPs to conduct village camps on Financial Literacy.

**13 Data Sharing:**

**13.1** Data sharing on a mutually agreed format / interval may be provided to DAY-NRLM or State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) for initiating various strategies including recovery etc.

The financing banks are advised to regularly share data on loans to SHGs with the DAY- NRLM or SRLMs, directly from the CBS platform.

**13.2** Banks should share data of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) with DAY-NRLM on agreed formats to facilitate higher enrollment and claim settlement under the mentioned schemes.

**13.3** Banks to share data of all SHG transactions being done at Business Correspondents points using Dual Authentication technology introduced by banks on a mutually agreed format/interval only after obtaining consent of the customer. However, the banks should ensure preservation and protection of the security and confidentiality of customer information in the custody or possession of BC.

**14 DAY-NRLM support to the bankers:**

**14.1** SRLM would develop strategic partnerships with major banks at various levels. It would invest in creating enabling conditions for both the banks and the poor for a mutually rewarding relationship.

**14.2** SRLM would assist the SHGs through imparting financial Literacy, extending counselling services on savings, credit, insurance, pension and training on Micro- Investment Planning embedded in capacity building.

**14.3** SRLMs would extend support to banks for improving quality of banking services to poor clients including follow-up for recovery of over dues if any, by positioning customer relationship managers (Bank Mitra/ Sakhi) with every bank branch involved in financing of SHGs.

**14.4** Leveraging IT mobile technologies and institutions of poor, youth or SHG member as business facilitators and business correspondents.

**14.5** Community Based Repayment mechanism (CBRM): One exclusive sub - committee for SHG Bank Linkage may be formed at village/cluster/ block level which would provide support to the banks in ensuring proper utilization of loan amount, recovery etc. The bank linkage sub - committee members from each village level federation along with project staff would meet once in a month under the chairmanship of the Branch Manager in the branch premises with the agenda items relating to bank linkage.

For Detailed Master Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12062&Mode=0>

**Amendment to Master Direction (MD) on KYC – KYC norms for Self Help Groups (SHGs)**

**RBI/2021-22/10 DOR.AML.BC.No.1/14.01.001/2021-22 April 1, 2021**

*The Chairpersons/ CEOs of all the banks*

Please refer to Section 43 of the [Master Direction on KYC dated February 25, 2016](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=11566) as amended from time to time, wherein simplified norms for Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been stipulated.

2. In this regard, on a review, it has been decided to amend clause (c) of Section 43 to read as under:

“Customer Due Diligence (CDD) of all the members of SHG may be undertaken at the time of credit linking of SHGs.”

**Strengthening of Grievance Redress Mechanism in Banks**

**RBI/2020-21/87 CEPD.CO.PRD.Cir.No.01/13.01.013/2020-21 January 27, 2021**

*All Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks)*

Please refer to the ‘[Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50748)’ issued as part of the [Monetary Policy statement dated December 4, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50747), wherein it was stated that with a view to strengthen and improve the efficacy of the grievance redress mechanism of banks and to provide better customer service it has been decided to put in place a comprehensive framework comprising certain measures.

2. Reserve Bank of India has taken various initiatives over the years for improving customer service and grievance redress mechanism in banks. Detailed guidelines on customer service were issued to banks encompassing various aspects of operations that impact customers. The Banking Ombudsman Scheme was introduced in 1995 to serve as an alternate grievance redress mechanism for customer complaints against banks. In 2019, Reserve Bank also introduced the Complaint Management System (CMS), a fully automated process-flow based platform, available 24x7 for customers to lodge their complaints with the Banking Ombudsman (BO).

3. As part of the disclosure initiative, banks were advised to disclose in their annual reports, summary information regarding the complaints handled by them; and certain disclosures were also being made in the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes published by the Reserve Bank. To further strengthen grievance redress mechanisms, banks were mandated to appoint an Internal Ombudsman (IO) to function as an independent and objective authority at the apex of their grievance redress mechanism.

4. Effective grievance redress should be an integral part of the business strategy of the banks. It is, however, evident from the increasing number of complaints received in the Offices of Banking Ombudsman (OBOs), that greater attention by banks to this area is warranted. More focused attention to customer service and grievance redress will ensure satisfactory customer outcomes and greater customer confidence.

5. In view of the above, and to further strengthen the customer grievance redress mechanism in banks, it has been decided to put in place a comprehensive framework comprising of, inter-alia, enhanced disclosures by banks on customer complaints, recovery of cost of redress from banks for the maintainable complaints received against them in OBOs in excess of the peer group average, and undertaking intensive review of the grievance redress mechanism and supervisory action against banks that fail to improve their redress mechanism in a time bound manner. Details of the framework are provided in the [Annex](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12017&Mode=0#AN1).

6. The framework will come into effect from the date of the circular.

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12017&Mode=0>