UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE
STATE BANK OF INDIA, LEAD BANK OFFICE, SRI VIJAYA PURAM

PROCEEDINGS OF UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE (UTLBC) MEETING FOR JUNE 2024 QUARTER OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS HELD ON 27-09-2024 AT CONFERENCE HALL, HOTEL MANSHA REGENCY, SRI VIJAYA PURAM AT 12.30 PM.

List of Attendees:

S No	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Shri Sanatan Mishra	General Manager & UTLBC Convener	State Bank of India
2.	Shri C Arvind	Secretary Finance	A&N Administration
3.	Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal	Deputy Secretary	DFS, Ministry of Finance
4.	Shri Sibabrata Pal	Deputy General Manager	FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata
5.	Ms Archana Singh	General Manager	NABARD
6.	Shri Siddhartha Gupta	Regional Manager	State Bank of India
7.	Other Attendees	Senior officials	All Bank and Govt Departments

The UTLBC meeting for Andaman & Nicobar Islands for June 2024 quarter was held on 27.09.2024 at Conference Hall, Hotel Mansha Regency, Sri Vijaya Puram. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanatan Mishra, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, SBI. Shri C. Arvind, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration co-chaired the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Deputy Secretary, Dept of Financial Services, GOI, Mr Sibabrata Pal, Deputy General Manager, FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata, Ms Archana Singh, General Manager, NABARD, Shri Siddhartha Gupta, Regional Manager, State Bank of India, Regional Office, Port Blair, Regional Managers from various Banks, Senior officials from the Administration, Representatives from Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Development agencies, other Govt Officials, Chief Managers and Senior Managers from the various Banks in A & N Islands.

At the outset, Shri Siddhartha Gupta, Regional Manager, State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, Port Blair welcomed all the dignitaries on behalf of UTLBC (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). He welcomed Shri C Arvind, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration, Shri Sanatan Mishra, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, SBI, Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Dept of Financial Services, GOI, Mr Sibabrata Pal, Deputy General Manager, FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata, Ms Archana Singh, General Manager, NABARD. The review was for progress in banking as per Annual Credit Plan 2024-25 for quarter ending June 2024.

Shri Siddhartha Gupta informed that:

1) The Steering Committee meeting was conducted on 24th September 2024 and finalized the agenda for this UTLBC meeting.
2) The members were also made aware of the achievement of priority sector lending target for the year 2024-25 under the Annual Credit Plan. The performance of few banks require improvement in the in the last year, which we need to address during discussion.
3) We are in regular touch with Andaman and Nicobar Administration, a very good and healthy support was received from the administration.

Shri Siddharth Gupta then requested General Manager, and UTLBC convener Shri Sanatan Mishra to deliver his keynote address.

Shri Sanatan Mishra, GM, SBI:

During his address Shri Sanatan Mishra, welcomed all dignitaries and the participants for attending the UTLBC meeting for review of performance for June 24 quarter. In his keynote address, he highlighted the following points:

1. We all Recognise that UTLBC, primarily as a committee of bankers at the UT level, plays an important role in the development of the State. This is one of the apex inter Institutional forum to create adequate coordination. This is a forum where representatives of, banks, RBI, NABARD, heads of Government departments and representatives of financial institutions operating in a State, come together and sort out coordination problems at the policy implementation level.
2. All key elements of financial wellbeing of the UT e.g. Financial inclusion initiatives, Financial Literacy, Credit disbursement by banks, CD Ratio, Position of NPAs in schematic lending, Certificate Cases and Recovery of NPAs. are Agendas of discussion.
3. It is very important that the forum constructively engage in Discussion on policy initiatives of the Central/UT Government and RBI and expected involvement of banks in those initiatives.
4. Through this forum All stakeholders have to make Efforts towards skill development, Enhancing Farm Income think for the ways to increase credit absorption capacity in the UT.
5. We had already circulated the proceedings and action points of last UTLBC meeting (Review for March 2024 quarter) held on 11th June 2024. Which will be placed during the meeting for confirmation.
6. The Action Taken Report for the last meeting is also furnished in the Executive Summary of Agenda Notes.

Shri C Arvind, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration:

During his address Shri C Arvind, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration highlighted the following points:

1. The Finance Secretary has congratulated all the bankers for their involvement and support in implementation of various GOI schemes here in the UT. He also informed that during the visit of Hon'ble Union Home Secretary, he expressed happiness and satisfaction regarding the progress of financial inclusion Schemes including Jan-dhan Schemes, APY, Mudra etc. in the island and thanked all the bankers especially SBI for the progress made towards this end.
2. He assured that the prevailing water scarcity will be fully resolved within a span of one year and as such does not foresee the islanders facing any major water related problems going forward. Regarding the recent tariff hike in power, he drew attention to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of bringing electricity to each and every household. Towards this objective UT Administration has taken solid measures for addressing the power shortage and price escalation by harnessing solar energy through leveraging the Prime Ministers Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna.
3. The Secretary, Finance also stated that, though in comparison, the household solar energy equipment's installation costs are lower at Mainland, UT Administration is contemplating to provide additional subsidy, through own budgetary support, over and above the applicable Central Govt subsidy to obviate this overall cost escalation. He called upon the Bankers and Chamber of Commerce to support and propagate this renewable energy generation scheme to have wider coverage.

4. He also explained various measures undertaken by the UT administration towards accelerating and augmenting skill development of the youth. He expressed the hope that by the ensuing year the skill gap will be brought down substantially, and the entrepreneurs will have availability of abundant skilled and employable manpower.
5. Regarding the influx of tourists to the island, the figures till now have already surpassed the total numbers for the entire year during the last fiscal and the incipient tourist season reinforces the optimism further.

Mr Sibabrata Pal, Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India highlighted the following points:

1. Conveyed the concern of RBI regarding the gap prevalent in the financial inclusion index viz access parameters and usage parameters, wherein the per capita distribution of Bank branches, ATMs etc. and per capita distribution of credit accounts and savings accounts are considered respectively.
2. Enhanced penetration of digital banking is one of the possible remedial measures suggested to address this stagnancy. He exhorted BSNL and other stakeholders to revitalize their efforts for provision of uninterrupted internet availability, the prime enabler for deepening penetration of digital banking resulting in consequential enhanced banking coverage.
3. Also emphasized to prioritize measures towards gearing up the CD Ratios of Nicobar and Northern & Middle Andaman Districts, pending possible downward revision of this bench mark for these two districts on account of their inherent relegated potential to absorb credit.

Ms Archana Singh, GM, NABARD highlighted the following:

i) GM, NABARD in her remarks mentioned about the extant deepening financial inclusion especially the Financial Literacy Programme sponsored by NABARD wherein recently around 470 programme proposals were received. She expressed her gratitude to SBI and the Rural Development Dept of UT Administration for equipping a good number of women entrepreneurs, numbering around hundred with POS machines. Further she called upon all member banks to actively participate in the financial inclusion programme

ii) She further elaborated NABARD; ongoing efforts in upscaling the skill development programme for the rural youth by imparting training and detailed the major role played by the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Society in this connection.

iii) She called upon Banks whose NPA are on the higher side to intensify their efforts to bring it down to acceptable levels.

The following points were discussed during the open session:

<u>Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industries:</u>

a) Land registration is closed since last 3 months, no land registration is happening Andaman & Nicobar Islands, which is affecting the entire economy. Credit offtake is not taking up affecting the CD ratio. Banks are unable to recover NPAs through Sarfaesi Act.

b) Conversion of lands is also not happening in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, this is also affecting the economy.

c) International flights will be operational from November 2024, Banks to focus on foreign exchange transaction.

Action points that emerged out of the meeting

Sl No	Action points	Implementing agency
1	Reduction of NPA	Andaman & Nicobar State Co-op Bank Ltd, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank & Indian Bank
2	Financial Literacy Program	All Rural Branches and Financial Literacy Centres
3.	Increase CD Ratio	Canara Bank, Bandhan Bank, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank
4.	PM Surya Ghar Yojna	All Banks

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Shri C Raj, Chief Manager, State Bank of India.

Convenor,

UTLBC, Andaman & Nicobar Islands