UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE
STATE BANK OF INDIA, LEAD BANK OFFICE, PORT BLAIR

PROCEEDINGS OF UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE (UTLBC) MEETING FOR DECEMBER 2024 QUARTER OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS HELD ON 05-03-2025 AT CONFERENCE HALL, HOTELLEMON TREE, SRI VIJAYA PURAM AT 03.00 PM.

List of Attendees:

S No	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Shri Sanatan Mishra	General Manager & UTLBC Convener	State Bank of India
2.	Shri Aman Gupta, IAS	Secretary Finance	A&N Administration
3.	Shri Rajesh Chopra,	Secreatry	Registrar of Co-op Societies
4.	Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal	Deputy Secretary	Department of Financial Services
5.	Shri Sibabrata Pal	Deputy General Manager	FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata
6.	Mr. Rahul Dhamani	Deputy General Manager	NABARD
7.	Shri Siddhartha Gupta	Regional Manager	State Bank of India
8.	Other Attendees	Senior officials	All Bank and Govt Departments

The UTLBC meeting for Andaman & Nicobar Islands for December 2024 quarter was held on 05.03.2025 at Conference Hall, Hotel Lemon Tree, Sri Vijaya Puram. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanatan Mishra, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, SBI. Shri Aman Gupta, IAS, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration co-chaired the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Deputy Secretary, Department of Finance, Shri Sibabrata Pal, Deputy General Manager, FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata, Shri Rahul Dhamani, Deputy 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, BSNL, 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 Aman Gupta, IAS, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration, Shri Sanatan Mishra, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, SBI, Shri

Rajesh Chopra, Secretary Co-op Societies, Shri Sibabrata Pal, Deputy General Manager, FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata, Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Deputy Secretary from Dept of Financial Services, MOF, GOI, Shri Rahul Dhamani, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Shri Kumaresan, General Manager, BSNL. He also welcomed all other participants present in the meeting and also connected virtually. The review was for progress in banking as per Annual Credit Plan 2024-25 for quarter ending December 2024.

Shri Siddhartha Gupta informed that:

1) The Steering Committee meeting was conducted on 28th February 2025 and finalized the agenda for this UTLBC meeting.
2) The Sub- Committee meetings on Digital Payment, Agriculture, MSME and Financial Inclusion were also held on 28th February 2025, where the agenda points were discussed in detail.
3) The performance of few banks require improvement in their performance and the same needs to be addressed during the discussions here today.
4) We are in regular touch with Andaman and Nicobar Administration for all the Govt sponsored Schemes, and we do receive very good and healthy support 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 December 2024 quarter. In his keynote address, he highlighted the following points:

- He called upon the members to constructively engage in discussion on policy initiatives of the Central/UT Government and RBI and expected involvement of banks in those initiatives. Given the crucial role of Banks in supporting the UT's economy, all banks are urged to increase credit disbursements under various Govt of India flagship schemes such as Mudra, PM Vishwakarma, PMAY etc... He reminded fellow bankers regarding the prevailing gaps, especially in the sphere of credit and the sense of urgency warranted in tackling the shortcomings and in accelerating dispensation during the fag end of the current fiscal.
- He requested the Govt departments to proactively extend all possible help and support wherever there are any bottlenecks faced by the banks in taking their work forward, without which the desired best results may not be possible to achieve.

- He informed the meeting that the proceedings and action points of the review meeting for the quarter ended September 2024, held on 28th November 2024 had already been circulated and will be placed for confirmation. Further the Action Taken Report for the last meeting is furnished in the Executive Summary of Agenda Notes.
- He highlighted the main 5 action points pertaining to

    1. Completing Aadhar Seeding of PMJDY
    2. NPA Level of some banks in the island
    3. Financial Literacy programmes
    4. CD Ratio and
    5. Jana Suraksha Saturation Campaign

- Aadhar Seeding which aims to link the account with Aadhar is extremely important as this will enable seamless access to Govt. subsidies, benefits and DBT. Overall achievement in Aadhar Seeding till end of quarter ended December 2024 is 88.09%
- Regarding reduction in NPA, out of 5 banks, where NPA was high at the end of September 2024 quarter, 2 have reduced their NPA level and the other 3, NPA remained either more or less same or worse.
- He elaborated in detail the need to enhance financial literacy leading to increased financial awareness in RUSU area, deepening digital use penetration, preventing financial fraud by creating awareness among the people regarding the menace of cyber fraud, phishing etc... He exhorted fellow bankers to educate people hailing from empower rural and low-income group to derive the benefits of Govt Schemes like PMJBY, PMSBY, APY etc... He informed that as part of financial literacy programme, 173 camps were organized by financial literacy centres of SBI & ANSCB. Further, 80 camps were conducted by rural branches of other 5 PSBs.
- During the last meeting it was desired that the CD ratio of 4 banks to be improved. Out of these 4 banks, only Canara Bank could improve the CD ratio and now is above 40%. With this improvement in CD ratio of Canara Bank, now all PSBs at UT
- Jan Suraksha Saturation Campaign progress was also good during the quarter. He emphasised the importance in having good co-ordination among various Govt Departments and bankers with converging focus to popularise these social security schemes. The performance of RSETI is noteworthy. During this FY they have so far imparted training to 582 candidates, of which 543 are female. Of these trained candidates 368 have been settled by availing bank credit. The credit linkage up to the quarter is 63.23% and still progressing.

- GM reiterated all banks to submit the LBR data through online portal in a time bound manner.

Shri Aman Gupta, IAS, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration:

During his address Shri Aman Gupta, IAS, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration highlighted the following points:

- Finance Secretary expressed the need to have better co-ordination and cohesion among various Govt departments and banks to fulfil the objectives envisaged in various Govt sponsored schemes. He expressed his concern that the private sector banks are yet to put in their full efforts in achieving the expected results and urged all bankers to come forward with extra efforts so that banking facilities reach the last mile. He requested everyone to put in their maximum efforts so that everyone gets the amount of credit each desires and eligible for and to have other banking services also.

Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Deputy Secretary, Dept of Financial Services, GOI:

During his talk Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Deputy Secretary, DFS, GOI made the following points:

- DFS has taken significant steps to ensure that every citizen has access to essential financial services. He highlighted salience of the flagship schemes:
- PMJDY has played a pivotal role in providing every individual with a bank account thereby ensuring that the benefits of Govt schemes are directly transferred to them. This has ensured that banking services reach the nook an corner of the country thereby giving tools to manage the finance effectively. He also elaborated in detail the nuances of various Govt schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY, Mudra Scheme, Micro Credit etc.
- He reminded that though we have achieved substantial progress in extending banking services in the island still there are miles to traverse to ensure that the remotest places have access to financial services and to strengthen the regional economy.

Shri Sibabartha Pal, DGM, RBI highlighted the following

- First of all he mentioned regarding the discussion that had in the last DCC meeting of South Andaman wherein the inadequacy of the quantum of housing loan qualifying as Priority sector lending was deliberated. At present loans below and up to Rs.35.00 lacs qualify as PSL. However, considering the higher input and construction costs prevailing at this island a need is felt to hike this upper limit to Rs.50.00 lacs and was represented to RBI in the last DCC meeting which was attended by the LDO of RBI. DGM, RBI informed that the same is under consideration and in process at RBI level and will be forwarded to the Central Office for taking a final call after examination. Once a decision is reached the sae will be communicated in due course.

- Regarding high NPA of few banks he informed that this was discussed in various forums. He urged the concerned banks to gear up the efforts in bringing down NPA to acceptable levels. Regarding unbanked rural centres he asked to verify the same in CSD portal. As SBI has stated that the prevailing unbanked areas are mainly due to the forest encroachment and low population thereof. He advised to take up the matter with DFS for updating.
- Further he mentioned about the low CD ratio, falling below 40% prevailing at N&M District & at Nicobar District since the last 8 years. Based on the request to reduce the benchmark below 40% for these two districts. He informed that this is also under consideration and will be reviewed at the appropriate level. He called upon bankers at South district to extend maximum credit so as to have increase in CD ratio.
- RBI has issued a circular on December 4, 2024 regarding KYC & re KYC. Around 10 years back a huge lot of accounts were opened under PMJDY Scheme. Now 10 years have since elapsed and majority of these accounts became inoperative and need re KYC. Banks should revamp and take necessary steps to make these accounts KYC complaint again as there will be future credits under DBT and any possible hardships in withdrawing these sums need to be obviated. He asked bankers to submit the data in this regard regularly on fortnightly basis.
- He asked to sensitise the ground level banking functionaries. regarding NPA classification of Govt guaranteed loans. regarding extension of credit to start up ventures, bankers need not go by the credit history of these borrowers who have no credit history and may be guided by commercial judgement and their own individual policy directions in this regard.
- He further elaborated about the two FI index criteria viz access criteria and usage criteria. All efforts should be made to improve the access index and for this all inactive BCs should be made active. Financial literacy camps should concentrate on improving awareness regarding cyber frauds.

Shri Rahul Dhamani, DGM, NABARD highlighted the following:

- DGM, NABARD mentioned about the grant assistance provided by NABARD for conducting FLC programmers. During this fiscal till now, three banks viz. SBI, Canara Bank & ANSCB have availed this grant support facility. He appealed all other bankers to come forward and avail this facility in the ensuing FY so that Financial Literacy penetration can be enhanced along with propagation and acceleration of various PSL schemes.
- Regarding fisheries sector he mentioned about fisheries infrastructural development fund (FIDF). He informed that GOI has declared Andaman Nicobar island as one of the "TUNA CLUSTERS ". Five villages have been identified for Coastal Village Programme. Under FIDF individuals can also avail benefit under this scheme. He also informed that NABARD is in talks with the fisheries Dept to have skill development programmes in Tuna fishing or in coastal village programme.

The following points were discussed during the open session:

Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industries:

- Dr.K. Chandra Sekharan, newly elected President of Andaman Chamber of Commerce expressed his gratitude for conducting regular DLBC meetings wherein the extension of credit to various sectors are monitored. He emphasised the employment generation potential for the unemployed youth through the development of MSME sector. The chamber is also striving to bring women entrepreneurs to the forefront and mainstream. He mentioned about the Food Technology meeting recently held at Port Blair where a number of women actively participated.
- He highlighted the importance of private investments a and also the role of MSME in supplanting Governmental initiatives in employment generation. As due to topographical and other inherent constraints, there is no room for any industry locally and as such the micro, small and medium industries assume great significance as far as the island is concerned. He called upon the bankers to maximise collateral free loans such as under Mudra and Start Up India schemes as the islanders also face constraints in providing land as collateral security due to extant laws. He thanked the administration and bankers for all the help extended by them to the development of the island.
- In response to the President, Chamber of Commerce GM, SBI has detailed the credit portfolio figures of SBI> Out of a total portfolio of approximately 591.00 Cr almost 42%, ie around 251.00 Cr is collateral free loans. He also informed that collateral security is only a parameter among many which decide the bankability of a proposal. He assured the forum that SBI has all along been doing and does

always and welcome bankable projects. He requested the stakeholders to bring in as much bankable proposals as possible so that maximum credit can be considered and disbursed. GM, SBI described regarding the CGTMSE cover available in lieu of collateral security and also detailed regarding quick mortality and its adverse implications.

General Manager, BSNL:

- In response to the connectivity problems depriving around 47 villages from formal banking, GM BSNL advised that they have already finished coverage and extended connectivity to 10 villages under the new expansion project. Of these 10 villages, 2 are being enabled through optical fibre and the remaining 8 by mobile 4 G connectivity. He also highlighted that though the number of connections envisaged is too meagre, they will be connecting Indra Point at Nicobar also by erection of tower as an obligation. For the remaining 37 uncovered areas work is in progress and he will update as per progression. In response to the query regarding timelines by the Fin Secretary, GM BSNL informed that another 10villages are expected to be covered by June 2025.

Secretary, Co-operative Department

- He said that this is his maiden meeting here and emphasised the significance of this meeting and collective endeavour envisaged to have maximum benefits accruing to the beneficiaries. Regarding the slight unhealthy position of ANSCB, he mentioned about the recent high level committee meeting under the purview of the Chief Secretary they had in this regard where NABARD also participated. He sought the help and support of all other banks for the ANSCB to come out of the present hardship.
- GM, SBI expressed willingness to extend all possible guidance and support in this connection where NABARD will be taking initiative for resolution as statutorily mandated. DGM, NABARD informed that a high level committee meeting was conducted by NABARD on 13.02.2015 where issues regarding financial position, components of performance, managerial part were discussed in detail. As part of the committee deliberations there is a provision of having special invitee if need arises.

Action points that emerged out of the meeting

Sl No	Action points	Implementing agency
1.	Aadhaar Seeding of SB PMJDY Accounts	It should be brought to the notice of the appropriate authority in the Banks like HDFC, Axis Bank , ICICI etc who fall below 60% in Aadhar Seeding of PMJDY Accounts.
2	Reduction of NPA	Andaman & Nicobar State Co-op Bank Ltd, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank and UCO Bank
3	Financial Literacy Program	All Bank Branches should conduct at least one Financial Literacy Camps in their surrounding area in every quarter..
4.	Increase CD Ratio	Private sector banks should improve their CD ratio.
5.	Data Submission	All Banks should promptly submit to UTLBC the data called for.
6	Senior functionaries not below the rank of Regional Head should physically attend the next UTLBC meeting in view of very low level of Priority Sector Lending.	Bandhan Bank, HDFC, Bank of India, Indian Bank, IDBI Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and IOB.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Shri Raj, Chief Manager, RSETI.

Convenor,
UTLBC, Andaman & Nicobar Islands