

## **MINUTES OF 168th MEETING OF STATE LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE, PUNJAB Held on 22.05.2024.**

### **CONVENER: PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK**

The 168<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee, Punjab to review the performance of banking system in the State of Punjab for the quarter ended March 2024 was held on 22.05.2024 at Hotel Hyatt Centric, Chandigarh from 11:00 A.M onwards. The meeting was Chaired by Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Chairman SLBC & Executive Director, PNB along with the presence of Chief Guest Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance, Government of Punjab and Sh. Vivek Srivastava, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh.

Besides, the meeting was attended by the following dignitaries-

- Shri Diprava Lakra, IAS, Secretary Finance, Institutional Finance & Banking, Punjab
- Shri Raghunath B, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Chandigarh
- Shri Parmesh Kumar, General Manager, PNB & Convener- SLBC

Also, the Senior Officers from RBI, State Government, Banks, Financial Institutions and various Corporations participated in the meeting.

The list of participants is as per **Annexure-I**.

At the outset, Shri Parmesh Kumar, Convenor-SLBC Punjab & General Manager, Punjab National Bank in his welcome address extended a warm & hearty welcome to the distinguished guests, LDMS, Senior Officers from RBI, State Government, Banks and various Corporations.

He said that SLBC will deliberate & review the progress of Banks for the quarter ended March, 2024 along with the policy, financial & other issues related to progress & economic conditions of state of Punjab. As guided by RBI's Revamped Lead Bank Scheme, SLBC-Punjab conducted five meetings of Sub-committees to SLBC on 09<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 to deliberate statistical data and other routine issues. Action points emerged during the meetings were placed in the steering sub-committee meeting to finalize the agenda for the SLBC meeting. He requested all member banks to ensure data sanctity and timely submission of SLBC data for meaningful analysis.

He spoke about the progress of Banks in the Punjab state for the period ended March 2024, which included the YOY deposit growth of 9.67% with major banks being SBI, PNB and HDFC, YOY credit growth of 15.65% with major banks being HDFC, SBI and PNB and Agriculture growth at 10.97%. He expressed concern over the term loan component under agriculture being only 33% and said that there is a need for Infrastructure financing or Capital formation in rural area which will ultimately increase agriculture/ rural income of farmers in the state.

While deliberating on the progress of Banks under National Goals he apprised the house the share of Priority Sector Advances, Agriculture Advances, Weaker Sector Advances, Advances to Small and Marginal Farmers and Share of Micro Advances to Total Advances.

He urged the banks to focus on increasing the share of digital transactions vis-à-vis the total transactions through adoption of new age technologies and on-boarding of more and more customers/merchants on digital platforms.

He further requested all the member banks to strive hard and make concerted effort for achievement of targets in the Financial Year 2024-25 and on behalf of bankers, he assured full cooperation from banking fraternity towards strengthening and uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people of the State and extend best wishes for fruitful & conclusive deliberations on all agenda issues of the meeting.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Chairman SLBC & Executive Director, PNB in his Keynote address expressed his pleasure to extended a warm and hearty welcome to distinguished guests, LDMS, Senior Officers from RBI, State Government, Banks and Press on behalf of SLBC Punjab.

As a proud banker he mentioned that name of State of Punjab is the first to be mentioned in our National Anthem. He said that Banks hold the largest amount of customer base compared to any of the service industry of the World, thus being the most important profession of the World. He said that all kinds of people whether rich or poor and industries, all are customers of Banks. Bankers are the people responsible for socio-economic development of the country and he urged all bankers to accept this responsibility.

He apprised the house that in Rs1.24/day we are giving insurance of Rs.400000/- to the people of our country, thus, Bankers are the people responsible for social security as well. He also stated that our achievement is 97% in ACP which is good however this is still not 100% for which we need to strive for. He appreciated that we have done extremely well in MSME, but expressed concern for not doing well in agriculture segment and social security schemes. He also said that we need improvement in other Priority Sector as well.

He said that Punjab is one of the richest State, so we have to be at No. 1 position in all the parameters and we can achieve the same with positive approach.

He concluded that SLBC is the most important committee in Development of State and assured the house on behalf of the Banking Fraternity that in the coming year all parameters will be achieved in the State of Punjab.

Sh. Vivek Srivastava, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh in his address to the house welcomed the dignitaries and all participants. He apprised the house that CFLs have been made operational and there are 51 CFLs covering all over Punjab. He urged all to co-operate for discharging the functions thereof.

He informed the house that detailed study of KCCs have been done and as per the findings around 55% of KCCs have over-financing. He pointed out that recovery may be very difficult if such KCCs become NPA, thus we need to address the issue of over-financing.

Expressing concern over working of BCs, he said that they have conducted field study and found that 50% of BCs selected for the survey conducted, were inactive; for which insufficient remuneration emerged as one of the major reasons. He requested to review BCs' remuneration, performance and work on their capacity building.

He apprised the house regarding survey of MSME's done by RBI wherein 28% of the respondents confirmed that they did not avail any formal credit and urged to target extending credit to them.

Reviewing the performance of the banks for the Q.E. March 2024, he said that 97% growth in ACP is fairly good, also the CD ratio of the state has improved by 3.28% on YoY basis but is much below the National average. The Lead District Managers of Rupnagar and Pathankot were appreciated and of 4 districts i.e. Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala & SBS Nagar were requested to monitor and improve as their CD ratio is below the prescribed limit of 40%. He said that although target of Agriculture Finance is achieved but we have seen a decline.

Further for the expansion of Digital Payment Infrastructure, initially 5 districts i.e. Kapurthala, SAS Nagar, Malerkotla, Fazilka & Faridkot were identified by Reserve Bank of India for 100% digitalization. Hoshiarpur Moga and SBS Nagar have achieved around 80%. He urged the complete State to work an extra mile for the same.

With respect to the Financial Inclusion Index Parameters, he said that SLBC needs to conduct a thematic study for Ferozpur District since the coverage of deposit accounts is low against National Average of 2.07.

Speaking about Reserve Bank of India's initiative of Opening Financial Literacy Centers, he raised the concern that more than 55% FLCs are vacant, and requested SLBC to deliberate. Even for the FLCs in operational state, they are functioning with capacity of 1200 instead of 1800. He requested the member banks to work towards making the Financial Literacy Centers operational since they play

a very important role in spreading awareness among public. It was also pointed out that many Rural Branches are not even holding one camp per month. So there is a need to provide training & monitor these camps, thus improving not only the CD ratio but the performance under Key Govt. schemes also.

Chief Guest Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance, Government of Punjab in his address welcomed all the Dignitaries, Senior Officers of Banks.

He congratulated the bankers for increase in ACP to 97% compared to 83% last year. However, he expressed concern on the fact that certain Banks are exceeding the targets whereas certain others are lacking on their part. Priority Sector Advances can also be improved.

Regarding CD ratio, he appreciated the good figures but said that some banks stand at 40% only which is an area of concern. He congratulated Pvt. Sector Banks and specially HDFC and SBI for priority sector lending achievement.

He brought to the notice of the house that compared to the absolute figures of last 3 years, in various parameters we stand at a lower pedestal currently, thus have declined in absolute numbers. He emphasized the importance of mechanization for agriculture for development. He further added that we should contribute to the social security schemes as discussed by Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Chairman-SLBC.

He concluded with thanks to all Banks for good contribution towards development of Punjab State.

Shri Raghunath B, Chief General Manager, NABARD in his address expressed greetings to all the dignitaries and other participants. He said that their main agenda is review of achievement against the Annual credit Plan 2023-24. Though he appreciated the achievement of 97%, he showed concern for the reduction in GLC & OPS in comparison to previous year. He also requested the bankers to give suggestions for achievement of Targets so that the same can be reviewed and imbibed into the Eco-system by the help of Senior Officials. He apprised the house that NABARD will convene a meeting shortly for finalizing the Unit cost for various Agriculture investments and invited banks for their active participation. A meeting with the state government will also be organized for finalizing the scale of Finance.

Further he asked all the Bankers whether Scale of Finance has been a restrictive factor in expanding their Agriculture credit portfolio. He acknowledged this fact that there are many issues with data on Land Holding etc. but now the state Government along with central government is coming up with the

Agri Stat i.e. the Digital Infrastructure which is especially for empowering farmers through Digital credentials. He stated that there are five building blocks which are getting ready and just started at various levels in other states. The first building block is Farmers and farmland Plot registry & unique identity for each farmer. The other building block is Crops owned registry. Once these are in place we will be in good position for meaningful discussion on Scale of Finance & Financing for farmers.

While contemplating the achievement of Private Banks in Agriculture CGM NABARD requested the bankers to classify the Agriculture loans on the basis of Purpose of Loan and not on the basis of security for loan. Under MSME the disbursement to a single account should not be above the Limit sanctioned or maximum outstanding amount so that the figure truly reflects the picture of the field.

He also brought to the notice of the house that pledge financing has been received a lot of importance. The interest subvention which was available for KCC has been extended to pledge Financing also by Govt. of India. This is a Joint initiative by NABARD, Department of Financial service, Govt. of India, Warehousing development regulatory Authority and Department of Food & public distribution, GOI. For this financing a portal has also been launched which is called as E-Kisan Upaj Nidhi Portal where loan is extended to farmers from 1 lakh to 75 lakh per borrower for pledge financing for Agriculture Produce stored in WRDA for upto a maximum of 12 Months and which is eligible for interest subvention. DFS has clarified that this is over and above the interest subvention of 3 lakhs available for Crop Loan. Pledge farming financing can also be advantageous for the farmers who want to take advantage of market variations and postpone the sale of produce and thus will not be forced to sell at the time of harvest. He also told that NABARD is working with State Govt. for the proper utilization of Ground water with diversification of Agriculture.

Sh. Akhil Mangal, AGM, SLBC welcomed the distinguished guests and proceeded with the agenda items.

The Agenda Items were discussed as under: -

<b>Agenda No. 1</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Confirmation of minutes of 167th Meeting of State Level Bankers' Committee (Punjab)</b>
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The House confirmed the e-mailed/circulated minutes of above meeting as no comments/suggestions were received.

<b>Item No. 2</b>	<b>Annual Credit Plan 2023-24 Achievements up to 31.03.2024</b>
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ACP achievement of the Banks during F.Y 2023-24 for the Q.E March 2024 is 97%, Banks have achieved 83% in agriculture, 115% in MSME and 83% in other priority sector.

AGM, SLBC said that all Banks can examine their own figures and focus more as agriculture is the base for State of Punjab and mentioned that top performing Banks will be felicitated at State Level; thus we may commit to achieve all ACP targets.

The top performing banks under ACP are HDFC, State Bank of India, ICICI and Punjab Gramin Bank.

Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance, Punjab asked the LDMs to comment on the reason for low ACP.

LDM, SBS Nagar said that maximum land holdings are with NRIs and they have given land on contract, thus agriculture advances are less in that area.

Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance, Punjab said that not just agriculture but MSME achievement is also low.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB & Chairman-SLBC said that since we have accepted the ACP targets we have to achieve the same. He requested to monitor the process and analyze the actual problems being faced to ensure the same.

AGM, SLBC informed that some Districts have exceeded the PLP fixed by NABARD.

Sh. Vivek Srivastava, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India said that SBI (with 76% achievement) and Indian Bank (with 34% achievement) to deliberate reasons for the same.

Indian Bank representative said that they have achieved 3589 crores out of the target of 4116 crores and data correction is required. He also informed that AIF, PMFME is their focus and they shall achieve the targets this year.

AGM, SLBC again requested to inform all the correction well in time as all the figures are discussed in sub-committee meeting.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director also advised to provide correct data before the meeting.

DGM, SBI informed that in agriculture they lacked a bit due to major write-offs during the period.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB & Chairman-SLBC emphasized that there should be proper action points for agriculture. Where certain reasons are hinderances for agriculture finance, they must be analyzed so that corrective action can be taken by the Banks as well as Government.

Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance, Punjab asked to have a session of 1 day specifically for agriculture wherein State Government Officials like Director Agriculture can be called.

Action: All Banks & LDMs

<b>Item No. 3</b>	<b>Overall CD Ratio</b>
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During the period under review overall CD Ratio of State of Punjab increased by 0.57% on QoQ basis and 3.28% on YoY basis. Thus, the CD ratio of the state is 63.44% as on 31.03.2024.

Sh. Akhil Mangal, AGM, SLBC informed that Kotak Bank has not submitted correct data.

Action: All Banks& LDMS

<b>Item No. 3.1</b>	<b>CD Ratio - Rural Areas</b>
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Although the CD Ratio in Rural Areas has increased by 1.37 PPS on YoY basis but the same has decreased by 0.84 PPS QoQ basis which is a matter of concern.

The concerned Banks to improve their CD ratio and ensure steady growth.

Action: All Banks& LDMS

<b>Item No. 3.2 &amp; 3.3</b>	<b>CD Ratio - Semi Urban Areas and Urban Areas</b>
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During the review period, the CD Ratio of Semi Urban area has increased by 3.94 PPs from 53.44% as on March 2023 to 57.38% as on March 2024.

Similarly, the CD Ratio of Urban area has increased by 3.78 PPs from 69.79% as on March 2023 to 73.57 as on March 2024.

Action: All Banks& LDMS

<b>Item No. 4</b>	<b>Credit Deposit Ratio – Implementation of the Recommendations of Expert Group on CD Ratio</b>
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CD Ratio in all districts i.e. Jalandhar, Kapurthala, SBS Nagar, Hoshiarpur & Pathankot has increased and the Pathankot district maintained the target of above 40% CD ratio throughout the year.

It was decided by the house that Pathankot district to be monitored for 1 more quarter and if the trend continues then we may remove it from Monitorable Action Plan.

AGM, SLBC mentioned that CD ratio is low for Public Sector Banks and LDMS are requested to liaison with Banks and Govt. Departments for facilitating maximum funding to improve CD ratio.

Action: Concerned LDMS/Banks

<b>Item No. 5</b>	<b>Review of National Goals</b>
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CD Ratio Overall of the state is 63.44% which is above the benchmark of 60%.  
 CD ratio of Rural area is 50.02 and Semi Urban area is 57.38% against National Goal of 60%.

AGM, SLBC said that Punjab is way ahead in almost all the parameters compared to the norms set by RBI. He informed that certain Banks are lacking compared to the benchmarks in various parameters like Priority Sector Advance, Agriculture Advance, Small & Marginal Farmers, Micro Enterprises, Export credit, Weaker Sector Advances and CD ratio and requested the concerned banks to focus in these areas which will also save cost for Banks.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 6</b>	<b>Ground level Credit data</b>
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The achievement of Commercial Banks under Ground Level Credit is 82%, RRBs 92% and Coop Banks is 96%. The overall achievement as on 31.03.2024 is 84%.

AGM, SLBC requested the member banks to take steps to improve progress under Term Loan to Agriculture for Asset/Capital creation in rural area.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 7</b>	<b>Priority Sector Advances</b>
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During the period under review, Priority Sector Advances in Punjab has been increased by Rs.22879 Crores, from Rs.182073 crores as at March 2023 to Rs.204952 crores as at March 2024 thus showing a growth of 12.57%.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 8</b>	<b>Agriculture Advances</b>
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The Agriculture Advances in the State during the period under review witnessed an increase of Rs.8902 crores from Rs.81112 crores as at March 2023 to Rs.90014 crores as at March 2024 thus showing increase of 10.97%.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 8.1</b>	<b>NPA in Agriculture Sector</b>
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NPA as on March 2024 under Agriculture are to the tune of Rs.10041 crores which is 11.15% of agriculture advances outstanding and 2.58% of total advances respectively in the State.

NPA under Agriculture sector have increased by Rs.46 crores during the last one year.

AGM, SLBC informed the house that almost all the Banks have performed well but wrong reporting of data by Kotak Mahindra Bank is affecting the figures.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 8.2</b>	<b>Agriculture Advances through Term Loan.</b>
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Out of the total Agriculture advances of Rs.90014 crores, term loan component is Rs.29334 crores which comes to 32.58%. Infrastructure financing or Capital formation is not being done in rural area, which will ultimately hamper agriculture/ rural income of farmers.

Term Loans are the best way for improving the Agriculture finance component.

Action: Concerned Banks/ Agriculture Dept.

<b>Item No. 9 and 9.1</b>	<b>KCC Scheme and KCC-ATM cum Debit Cards position</b>
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Banks are requested to sanction KCC to all PM-Kisan Beneficiaries of their bank.

The overall percentage of cards issued as on 31.03.2024 is only 80%. Banks are requested to issue ATM cum Debit card to all KCC account holders.

Sh. Vivek Srivastava, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, pointed out that some big Banks are declining in this aspect.

Action: Concerned Banks

<b>Item No. 10</b>	<b>Advances to SC Beneficiaries</b>
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The Advances to SC Beneficiaries in the State during the period under review witnessed an increase of Rs.1331 Crores i.e. 24.80 %.

Last year there was negative growth and it was appreciated that this quarter there is positive growth.

<b>Item No.11</b>	<b>Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)</b>
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The achievement against the target of Rs.3883cr is Rs.4327 cr which comes out to 111%. All Banks were congratulated for the same.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB & Chairman-SLBC desired to include figures of Sanction and disbursement in agenda next SLBC Meeting onwards.

<b>Item No. 11.1</b>	<b>NPA under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)</b>
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NPA under MUDRA was 9.51% as on 31.03.2023 and 10.75% as on 31.03.2024. UCO, BOB, BOI, BOM have witnessed increase in NPA compared to last year. AGM SLBC requested these Banks to review their performance as recovery is an important aspect for Banks currently.

<b>Item No. 12</b>	<b>Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)</b>
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Banks having pendency in disbursements and sanctions are requested to advise their field functionaries to clear the pendency immediately & achieve the allocated targets of current financial year.

AGM SLBC requested Director KVIC to comment and also clarify why subsidy is demanded back from Banks if the account turns NPA.

Director KVIC Appreciated the bankers for their good work. He also informed that subsidy can be adjusted if stock is present, and agreed to share the relevant guidelines of the scheme.

Director, Department of Industries said that physical targets are left behind so he urged to give preference to small loans to increase numbers. They also informed that they have conducted awareness programs in all it is.

AGM, SLBC assured co-operation for awareness camps.

Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance asked to add PMEGP numbers in the Agenda from next meeting so that the data is complete for discussion.

Action: All Banks/KVIC

<b>Item No. 13</b>	<b>Stand-up India Programme of Ministry of Finance</b>
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AGM SLBC apprised the house that the scheme has not yet picked up in state. Limited Banks participated and number of loans sanctioned are minimum out of all schemes. He requested all Banks to follow leading Banks and contribute.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 14</b>	<b>Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan MantriJeevanJyotiBimaYojana (PMJJBY).</b>
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AGM, SLBC apprised the house that as on 31.03.2024, more than 96 Lakh enrolments have been done under PMSBY and more than 42 Lakh under PMJJBY. He referred to Sh. Mohapatra Jis opening speech where he explained in very easy language the benefit of this scheme and requested all the LDMs and Banks to strive hard being a social cause and make concerted efforts to cover each and every eligible beneficiary in the state as large population is still to be covered.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 15</b>	<b>Atal Pension Yojana (APY)</b>
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The overall achievement under the scheme as on 31.03.2024 is 67%. AGM, SLBC said that the overall performance under the scheme has improved as compared to the previous quarter from 47% to 67%. However, the performance of Pvt. Banks is not found satisfactory.

RRBs were applauded for their achievement of 127%.

Action: Concerned Banks

<b>Agenda Item No. 16</b>	<b>Review of progress of implementation of various packages announced by RBI/Govt. of India for different sector of economy in view of COVID pandemic</b>
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<b>Item No. 16.1</b>	<b>PM Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM- SVANidhi) a special Micro Credit Facility Scheme</b>
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As on 01.05.2024, total 246838 applications have been uploaded on the portal, out of which Banks have sanctioned 196252 applications and 184327 applications have been disbursed. 11925 applications are pending for disbursement. AGM, SLBC informed the house that pendency of disbursement and sanction both are very less i.e. below 10%.

Technical director, NULM said that huge number of cases are approved by the Banks which is good.

Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance also supported his view and urged to expedite disbursement through camps.

AGM, SLBC assured the same on behalf of all the Banks.

<b>Item No. 16.2</b>	<b>Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign for providing KCC facility to all eligible Animal Husbandry and Fishery Farmers</b>
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Under the campaign, a total of 66985 applications have been received so far for KCC to Animal Husbandry & Dairy out of which 51534 have been sanctioned, 14141 applications have been rejected and 1034 applications are pending with banks.

Out of total pending applications, 807 applications are pending for more than 15 days.

For KCC to Fisheries, out of total 580 applications received, only 101 applications have been sanctioned and as many as 381 applications have been rejected. 98 applications are still pending with the banks and all of them are pending for more than 15 days which is a matter of concern.

Action: Banks/Fisheries Dept./Dairy Dept.

<b>Item No. 16.3</b>	<b>CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME FOR “FINANCING FACILITY UNDER AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND”</b>
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Banks have received 19306 applications under the scheme. 11964 applications have been sanctioned, 11150 applications disbursed and 814 are still under process. Out of pending applications, as many as 436 applications are pending for more than 30 days for disbursement. The concerned banks are requested to dispose of the pending applications at the earliest.

AGM, SLBC informed that Punjab is at No. 1 position in AIF.

Representative from AIF requested for speeding up the Geo-tagging.

AGM, SLBC said that Banks cannot do geo-tagging at their end, the same is to be done by initiative from the department and banks can only support the department for Geo Tagging. He also informed that Bank of India has done geo-tagging in 100% cases.

Action: Banks & Horticulture Dept.

<b>Item No. 16.4</b>	<b>Integration of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund with the Krishi, Mapper application via Geo-tagging of project locations of 10,000 +beneficiaries in Punjab</b>
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As per MoA & FW, Govt. of India guidelines, it has been directed to integrate Agriculture Infrastructure Fund with the Krishi, Mapper application via Geo-tagging of project locations of 10,000 +beneficiaries in Punjab, as informed by the Department of Horticulture, Punjab.

<b>Item No. 16.5</b>	<b>PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme)</b>
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Banks have received 2810 applications under the scheme. 2146 applications have been sanctioned as on 31.03.24 and 190 applications are still pending with banks.

As advised by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, GOI, SLBC has allotted the target of 1 loan per branch to the banks. AGM, SLBC requested all the member banks to achieve the same positively.

**Action: LDMs & Banks**

<b>Item No. 17</b>	<b>EXPANDING AND DEEPENING THE DIGITAL PAYMENT ECO-SYSTEM IN ALL DISTRICTS OF PUNJAB</b>
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The Digital India is a flagship program of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

On the basis of Reserve Bank of India Bi-monthly Policy dated 04.10.2019, SLBC Punjab was asked to identify one district in the State on Pilot Basis for expanding and deepening the digital payment eco-system. In this regard, Kapurthala District was identified to make it 100% Digitally enabled within one year. Time line fixed for 100% digitalization of the district was 31.12.2023.

As per RBI letter No. FIDD.CO.LBS.No.S704 /02.01.014/2023-24 dated August 09, 2023, Para 2, SLBC/UTLBC Convenor Banks were advised to leverage the experience gained in the implementation of the program and to prepare a schedule to cover all the districts in respective states/UT, to make them 100% digitally enabled.

**Action: All Banks & LDMs**

<b>Item No.18</b>	<b>Scale of Finance in Agriculture Advances</b>
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AGM, SLBC apprised the house that a meeting of newly formed committee was held on 09.02.2024 wherein the outcome of previous meeting was shared with newly inducted members. It was discussed that all the new members will go through the previous outcome and after that next meeting will be held shortly to come up with recommendations on the issue. He also said that there is overfinancing in KCCs in some belts.

**Action: SLBC**

<b>Item No.19</b>	<b>Review of Performance of Banks (excluding Coop. Banks) in key areas relating to Deposits, Advances &amp; Priority Sector Advances</b>
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As per the comparative position of key Banking parameters there is rise in all parameters.

<b>Item No. 20</b>	<b>PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME</b>
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PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched on 17th September, 2023 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to provide end-to-end holistic support to traditional artists and crafts people engaged in 18 identified through access to skill training, collateral free credit, modern tools, market linkage support and incentive for digital transactions.

AGM SLBC requested all the Lead District Managers and Banks to participate proactively, put concerted efforts to source maximum applications and simultaneously process them also.

Joint Director, Department of Industries said that they are trying to speed up the First and Second stage.

Action: All Banks

<b>Item No. 21</b>	<b>MERA GHAR MERE NAAM/SVAMITVA Scheme</b>
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SVAMITVA Scheme is a flagship Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt of India. The Scheme aims at creation of computerized Record of Right and Creation of GIS Maps of Abadi Deh areas of villages. Initially, the scheme was started in Gurdaspur District in Punjab on Pilot basis and is now being implemented in all the Districts of State of Punjab.

Under this scheme Property Cards have already been started generating in the Gurdaspur District. As informed by LDM, Gurdaspur during 167th SLBC meeting, all the details of the district have been updated in Revenue record and now Unique ID number of owner can be generated. Earlier, there was no option to create charge but now that problem is also solved and the record is at par with Fard. People having houses falling in Lal Dora can now avail housing loan, the property can be mortgaged in similar way and sanctioning can be done for all kind of loans in the same way as it was done against the Registry.

As on 15.04.2024, a total of 16443 property cards have been generated in Gurdaspur district.

LDM Gurdaspur informed the house that there is no hinderance in lending under this scheme however response from people has declined.

Action: Revenue Dept./SLBC

<b>Item No. 22</b>	<b>Opening of RSETIs in Uncovered Potential Districts of Punjab State</b>
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Sh. Charanjit Singh, State Director Punjab for RSETIs informed that we have achieved Punjab State target upto 105%. Settlement rate is 76% and Bank credit rate is 62% against State rate of 61%. On 1April 2024 RSETI in Gurdaspur has been opened. He requested Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra,

Executive Director, PNB to consider opening of 4 more RSETIs in Pathankot, SBS Nagar, Fazilka and Tarn Taran.

AGM, SLBC informed the house that Financial Literacy is the focus area of RBI and they have also sent awareness booklets/material for all RSETIs.

Action: All LDMs/Banks

<b>Item No. 23</b>	<b>National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)-Implementation in the State of Punjab</b>
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Rural Development Department, Govt. of Punjab informed that the NRLM scheme is implemented in 98 blocks in 23 Districts and Department proposed to extend it to 115 Blocks. Banks have sanctioned and disbursed 10349 Loan Applications up to Q.E March 2024 and there is only 1.6% NPA cases.

AGM SLBC appreciated Punjab Gramin Bank and HDFC for good work in funding to SHGs.

Action: Concerned LDMs & Banks

<b>Item No. 23.1</b>	<b>Position of Women Self Help Groups under NRLM</b>
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AGM, SLBC informed that Co-operative Banks are lagging behind for funding women SHGs.

<b>Item No. 24 and 24.1</b>	<b>Pledge Financing for Agriculture Commodities through ELECTRONIC NEGOTIABLE WAREHOUSE RECEIPT (e-NWR) and Promotion of e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi (e-KUN)</b>
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The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) was established under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 for setting up a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country, making Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) a prime tool of trade and regulation of warehouses.

To provide a hassle free loan application journey to the farmers by reducing Turn Around Time required for making application to the bank, the e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi (e-KUN) was launched on 04.03.2024 and is on boarded on Jan Samarth portal.

Sh. Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance asked how many Warehouse are registered under this in State of Punjab, but Representative from Agriculture department said that this scheme is not under their purview.

Sh. Ajoy Kumar Sinha requested SLBC to Circulate the scheme to which AGM, SLBC agreed.

Action: SLBC

Lead District Managers have informed SLBC-Punjab that the Financial Literacy Counselors' working at Financial Literacy Centers in the following Blocks are either retired after completion of their tenure of job or left the job with some other reasons. In some cases, the counselors are not being appointed since inception of the scheme. 54 FLCs are functioning against the target of 150 at the block level in the State of Punjab. Out of 150 FLCs, codes are given to 132 FLCs.

Madam Savita Verma, DGM, RBI said that FLCs complements CFLs. CFLs are operational since last 3 years.

She added that In FLCs most people are ex-bankers or related to Financial sector thus knowledgeable and capable of disseminating information regarding schemes in a better way, therefore, through FLCs they may train CFL staff and build more capacity in July. FLC is an important segment but vacant since long as FLCs are not getting sufficient applications. They are important pillars of Financial Inclusion. She requested Banks to recommend the required changes in the scheme to improve the position. She also asked if it is a necessity to only employ ex-bankers for the purpose.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB, Chairman-SLBC asked Punjab and Sind Bank to express the issues faced as they have maximum pendency.

Representative from Punjab & Sind Bank shared that age criteria of upto 65 years is an issue due to which they are unable to employ suitable persons.

Sh. Charanjit Singh, State Director Punjab for RSETIs informed that remuneration of FLCs is less that is also a reason for vacant FLCs. He said that SBI has now raised the same and requested Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB for the same.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB requested to discuss in sub-committee meeting and analyze and provide consolidated information w.r.t. the problems being faced and resolutions that can be done for various districts as this is a concern of our regulator.

It was also clarified by representative from RBI that as per the government guidelines of 2016 there is no compulsion of employing only ex-bankers but each Bank has their own discretion to some extent for the same.

AGM, SLBC said that we may share the FLC guidelines with the Banks and requested Concerned banks to appoint these FLCs immediately and report latest status to SLBC.

Action: SLBC/Banks

1176 Target group specific camps have been conducted by FLCs in the State of Punjab. 677 special camps have been conducted by FLCs for people newly inducted into the Financial System in the State of Punjab. A total of 6227 FLC Camps have been conducted by 3210 rural branches during the quarter and 146219 persons participated in these camps.

However, Sh. Vivek Srivastava, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh had shown concern regarding Rural Banks not doing sufficient FLC Camps.

<b>Item No. 27</b>	<b>Calendar for the SLBC Meetings –F.Y. 2024-25</b>
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AGM, SLBC apprised the house regarding the Calendar for next SLBC Meeting for the Financial Year 2024-25 as :-

<b>SLBC Meeting</b>	<b>Quarter which is to be reviewed</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>
169th	June 2024	14.08.2024(Wednesday)
170th	September 2024	14.11.2024(Thursday)
171th	December 2024	13.02.2025(Thursday)

<b>Item No. 28</b>	<b>Pending claims status of Rural self-employment Training Institutes(RSETIs) Sponsoring Banks - as on 30.04.2024</b>
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As on 30.04.2024, Total amount of claims pending for reimbursement with the SRLM of BPL trained candidates for PNB's RSETI of Punjab State is Rs.2.30 crores.

AGM, SLBC requested the SRLM Dept. to reimburse the amount of pending claims without any further delay.

Sh. Ramandeep Sharma, SPM, NRLM said that they have already demanded 11.5 crores and same will be cleared within 1 month.

<b>Table Item</b>	<b>Annual credit plan (ACP) – Sector-wise Targets for Financial Year 2024-25 – District wise and Bank wise for approval.</b>
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AGM, SLBC discussed the ACP Targets/achievement for the year 2023-24 and Targets for the year 2024-25. 97% was the achievement for last year. For Total Agriculture Loans 92225 crores were achieved against the target of 109201 crores in 2023-24 and for 2024-25 targeted growth is 19% i.e. 110086 crores. For MSME 100334 crores were achieved against the target of 87009 crores in 2023-24 and for 2024-25 targeted growth is 3% i.e. 103434 crores. For OPS 20583 crores were achieved against the target of 24842 crores in 2023-24 and for 2024-25 targeted growth is 30% i.e. 26697 crores. For total Priority Sector Targeted growth for 2024-25 is 13%.

Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, PNB asked the reason why MSME target is on lower side i.e. 3% and OPS on higher side i.e.30%.

AGM, SLBC said that we can revisit the targets along with NABARD.

Madam Savita Verma, DGM RBI said that these can be further discussed and then planned accordingly.

All were then requested to discuss the issues faced if any during the Open Session.

Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan, Director UIDAI informed that house that they have launched face authorization and Banks were requested to make use of the same. He also requested to popularize the application Jeevan Praman. He also raised concern regarding the de-duplication not being done. He also informed that Punjab state has 100% Aadhar saturation.

Sh. Jagdish Singh, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture expressed his concern regarding burning of stubble (parali) by farmers in Punjab State. He said that to stop the same they have changed the scheme to make subsidy available from backend. He requested Banks to accordingly guide the farmers not to burn stubble and that subsidy will easily be released from the government to Bank and finally to farmers. He also informed about the State government site of Agri-machinery where approved cases can be viewed. He also apprised that each beneficiary is given upto 25 lakhs of subsidy amount.

Sh. R. K. Meena, DGM, SLBC requested the LDMS to keep in personal monitoring the action points discussed. He requested to focus on the actual pendency and timely correction of data wherever required.

He also requested for organization of desired number of FLC camps and take corrective action for inactive BCs which are huge in number. He also suggested that relevant matters can be discussed in DLRCs in the Districts. He requested all to ensure timely reporting of the issues before the SLBC meeting.

Concluding the discussion he requested all the Banks to constantly strive for improved performance and ensured all the required support from SLBC, Punjab.

Thereafter, the meeting ended with Vote of thanks by Sh. Hardeep Singh, GM, Bank of Baroda.

**Annexure - I****List of Participants****168<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SLBC (Punjab)  
Held on 22.05.2024 at 11.00 A.M**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of participant (Shri/Smt)</b>	<b>Designation/Bank/Department</b>
1	Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS	Principal Secretary Finance, Govt. of Punjab
2	Vivek Srivastava	Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India
3	Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra	Executive Director, PNB & Chairman-SLBC Punjab
	Diprava Lakra, IAS	Secretary Finance, Institutional Finance & Banking, Punjab
5	Raghunath B	Chief General Manager, NABARD
	<b>Reserve Bank of India</b>	
6	Savita K Verma	Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India
7	Sanjeev Singh	AGM , RBI
	<b>Punjab National Bank</b>	
8	Parmesh Kumar, GM & Convener SLBC	Punjab National Bank
9	Pankaj Anand, DGM	Punjab National Bank
10	R.K Meena, DGM	Punjab National Bank
11	Akhil Mangal, AGM	Punjab National Bank
12	Sumant Kumar, Chief Manager	Punjab National Bank
	<b>State Government Departments/Boards/Corporations(Shri/Madam)</b>	
13	Sanjeev Aggarwal, Deputy Director	Department of Institutional Finance & Banking
14	Jasminder Singh Bindra, AGM	NABARD

15	Dr. Vinod Kumar, Professor	RBI Chair, CRRID
16	Rajneesh Tuli, SLPM	Punjab Agro
17	Jagdish Singh, Joint Director	Department of Agriculture
18	Sanjeev Mahajan, Director	UIDAI
19	Vishav Bandhu, Joint Director	Department of Industries
20	Dr. Ashish, Nodal Officer	Animal Husbandry(Punjab)
21	Mohit, State Director	KVIC
22	Sukhwinder Singh	KVIC
23	Jasvir Singh, Director & Warden of Fisheries	Department of Fisheries(Punjab)
24	Amardeep Singh, SFO	Department of Fisheries(Punjab)
25	Dr. S.K.Dubey, Deputy Director	NHB
26	Baldeep Singh, Technical Director	Local Govt. Deptt./SUDA/NULM
27	Harpreet Singh, Deputy Director	Horticulture Department
28	Nitya Tewari	Horticulture Department
29	Kashmir Singh, Joint Director	Dairy Deptt
30	Vaibhav Sharma, Senior Associate	NPCI
31	Prabhat Garg, Manager	Punjab Financial Corporation
32	Charanjit Singh, State Director	RSETI
	<b>Banks (Shri/Madam)</b>	
33	Abhishek Sharma, DGM	STATE BANK OF INDIA
34	Rajesh Ranga, CM	STATE BANK OF INDIA
35	Hardeep Singh, GM	BANK OF BARODA
36	Brajesh Kumar Singh, DGM	BANK OF INDIA
37	S K Trivedi, Zonal Manager	BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
38	Ved Prakash ,DGM	CANARA BANK
39	Alok, Zonal Head	UCO BANK
40	Kamal Kant, Sr. Manager	UCO BANK
41	Karamjit Singh, DGM	PUNJAB & SIND BANK

42	Naveen Joshi, Officer	PUNJAB & SIND BANK
43	O.P Kalra, DGM	INDIAN BANK
44	Umakant Samal, Regional Manager	INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
45	Purushottam Meena, DGM	CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
46	Prashant Gaur, AGM	UNION BANK OF INDIA
47	APS Ghuman, GM	PB. STATE COOPERATIVE BANK
48	Gajendar Kumar Negi	PB. GRAMIN BANK
49	Harvinder Kapoor, Regional Head GSP	HDFC BANK
50	Prabhjeet Singh Purba , Zonal Coordinator	ICICI BANK
51	Vinay Bhalla ,SVP	AXIS BANK
52	Charu Bakhshi, Nodal Officer	AXIS BANK
53	Prashant Sethi, DGM	IDBI BANK
54	Satvir Chopra, AVP	INDUSIND BANK
56	Iftikhar Abdullah Sofi, AGM	J & K Bank
57	Harpreet Kaur, SM	KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
58	Prateek Goel, Regional Head	FEDERAL BANK
59	Tajeshwar Bathla, SVP	YES BANK
60	Manav Malhotra, Manager	RBL BANK
61	Vikertan Sharda, AVP	BANDHAN BANK
62	Vishal Singla , SVP	AU SMALL FINANCE BANK
63	Amit Gupta	AU SMALL FINANCE BANK
64	Mukesh Chand, DVP	CAPITAL SMALL FINANCE BANK
65	Amit Thakur, Sr. Manager	UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK
66	Amar Bisht, BCSDM	JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
67	Zarrar Husain	AIRTEL BANK

68	Mohit Sharda, Sr. Manager, CO Punjab	INDIA POST PAYMENT BANK
69	Ravi Raj Singh, RH	FINO PAYMENTS BANK
	<b>Lead District Manager(Shri/Madam)</b>	
70	UMANG MAINI	Amritsar
71	Ambuj Kumar	Barnala
72	Manju Galhotra	Bathinda
73	Rameshwar Dass	Faridkot
74	Mukesh Kumar	Fatehgarh Sahib
75	Manish Shaharan	Fazilka
76	Kewal Kishan	Gurdaspur
77	RAJESH JOSHI	Hoshiarpur
78	GEETA MEHTA	Ferozpur
79	Sarabjit Singh	Ludhiana
80	Vijay Gupta	Mansa
81	Chiranjiv Singh	Moga
82	Gurcharan Singh	Sri Muktsar Sahib
83	Lalit Kumar Mehra	Pathankot
84	Davinder Kumar	Patiala
85	Manish Tripathi	Rupnagar
86	M K Bhardwaj	SAS Nagar
87	Harmesh Lal	SBS Nagar
88	Nirmal Roy	Tarn Taran
89	Rajesh Kumar	Malerkotla
90	Sanjeev Aggarwal	Sangrur
91	M S Moti	Jalandhar
92	Amanpreet Singh	Kapurthala