Reconciliation of Pending Entries in Regional Rural Banks

Please refer to our Circular No. 41/DoS.10/2009 dated 27 February 2009 (copy enclosed) advising all Rural Financial Institutions to take necessary steps to complete the pending reconciliation of accounts within a specified time frame. You may also refer to RBI’s Circular No. RBI/2013-14/527 dated 21 March 2014 (copy enclosed) advising all banks to credit amounts in accounts which have not been operated for ten years or any deposit or any amount remaining unclaimed for more than ten years into the DEA Fund.

2. The Board of Supervision (for StCBs, DCCBs and RRBs), in its 83rd Meeting held on 22 September 2021, has expressed concern over the inordinate delay in reconciliation of outstanding entries by RRBs. The presence of unreconciled entries under various intermediary accounts such as Inter-bank, Inter-branch, Sundry...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>हिंदी वाक्य</th>
<th>इंग्लिश वाक्य</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>विविध स्थिति, माइग्रेशन खातों आदि के तहत मिलान न की गई प्रविष्टियों का होना. बैंकों में कमजोर आंतरिक जांच और नियंत्रण प्रणाली की दर्शाता है और इससे बैंकों में धोखाधड़ी के केस बढ़ सकते हैं।</td>
<td>Debtors, Sundry Creditors, Sundry Expenses, Migra Dump accounts, etc., is indicative of weak Internal Checks and Control System in the bank and is a fertile ground for frauds in banks.</td>
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3. इस संबंध में, हम सूचित करते हैं कि बैंक 6 महीने से अधिक समय से लंबी सभी बकाया प्रविष्टियों के मिलान के लिए तत्काल कार्यवाह करें और निष्पत्ति कदम उठाएं. इसके अलावा आरबीआई के 21 मार्च 2014 के परिपत्र के अनुपालन में किसी भी खाते में जमा राशि जो दस वर्षों से संचालित नहीं हुए हैं या कोई जमा या दस वर्ष या उससे अधिक समय के लिए दावा न की गई किसी भी शेष राशि को डीईए निधि में जमा किया जाए। |

3. In this connection, we advise that banks may initiate urgent and definite steps to reconcile all outstanding entries pending for more than 6 months. Further, the amounts to the credit of any account which has not been operated upon for ten years or any deposits or any amount remaining unclaimed for ten years or more may be credited to the DEA Fund strictly in line with RBI's Circular dated 21 March 2014.

4. यह नोट किया जाए कि बैंकों के सांविधिक निरीक्षण के दौरान, नाबार्ड बैंक की वित्तीय स्थिति, अर्थत आरबी/ नेटवर्थ का आकलन करते समय ऐसी मदद को अप्राप्त आवश्यक क्षेत्र के रूप में मानते हुए दंभ समय से लंबी मिलान न की गई प्रविष्टियों को बैंक की पूंजी में चार्ज करेगा। |

4. It may be noted that during the conduct of Statutory Inspection of banks, NABARD will charge long pending unreconciled entries to the bank’s capital while assessing its financial position, i.e. REV/ Networth of the bank by treating such items as unrealizable assets/ erosion.

5. कृपया इस परिपत्र की प्राप्ति की सूचना हमारे संबंधित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय को दें। |

5. Please acknowledge receipt of this circular to our Regional Office concerned.

भवदीय

ह/-
(आर शंकर)
महाप्रबंधक
अनुलग्न: यथोक्त
Ref.No. NB.DoS.HO.POL. 4463/J-1/2008-09

Circular No.41/DoS.10/2009

27 February 2009

The Chairman
All RRBs in the Country

The Managing Directors
All SCBs in the Country

The Chief Executive Officers/General managers
All DCCBs in the Country

Dear Sir

Adherence to Prudential Norms and Completion of
Reconciliation of Accounts in RRBs and Co-operative
Banks

While reviewing the performance of banks as per the Statutory Inspections conducted by NABARD, the the Board of Supervision (BoS) ( for SCBs, RRBs and DCCBs) in its 38th meeting held on 04 December 2008 had observed as under:

(i) The Inspection Reports of some of the banks revealed that the banks resort to evergreeing of NPAs thereby making lesser provisions, contrary to the instructions of the RBI/NABARD on prudential norms. It is expected that the banks should strictly abide by the prudential norms while classifying their assets and make appropriate and correct provisioning, as required. You will appreciate that the Inspection Reports issued by NABARD have been highlighting the inconsistencies in the classification of assets and provisioning made by the banks by way of divergence statement. This is being done with a view to facilitating the banks to once again check up the classification of assets done by them so that such deficiencies do not recur in future. It is regretted that despite pointing out by way of divergence statements the banks continue to adopt wrong classification of assets, thereby making lesser provisions deliberately so as to show a better financial position of the banks. It is once again reiterated that banks need to be more transparent in the operations while disclosing their financial affairs to the stake holders. We, therefore, request you to kindly issue necessary instructions to the
branches for classifying the bank's assets strictly in accordance with the RBI/NABARD guidelines under advice to our Regional Office. Please note that NABARD would not like to have any compromise on adherence to the prudential norms by the supervised banks. We would like to indicate that our inspecting officers have been advised to critically verify the "evergreening of NPAs" by the banks during onsite inspections.

(ii) Another area of concern expressed by the Board of Supervision is the undue delay in reconciling inter-branch and inter-bank accounts by the banks. While the position in respect of RRBs is somewhat better, the Co-operative Banks need to bestow their attention to ensure completion of reconciliation of accounts within a specific time frame. We, therefore, urge upon the management of the banks to take necessary steps to complete the pending reconciliation of accounts within a specified time frame, say, within six months. The action taken in this regard may please be advised to us together with the latest position of reconciliation of accounts indicating the number of debit and credit entries and the amount involved as on 31 March 2009 under intimation to our Regional Office.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(G.C. Panigrahi)
Chief General Manager
The Chairman and Managing Director /  
Chief Executive Officers  
All Scheduled Commercial Banks including RRBs and LABs /  
Urban Co-operative Banks / State Co-operative Banks /  
District Central Co-operative Banks

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014 - Section 26A of Banking Regulation Act, 1949

Please refer to paragraph 93 of the Monetary Policy Statement 2013-14 announced by Governor on May 3, 2013 on the above subject.

2. Pursuant to the amendment of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, section 26A has been inserted in that Act, empowering Reserve Bank to establish The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (the Fund). Under the provisions of this section the amount to the credit of any account in India with any bank which has not been operated upon for a period of ten years or any deposit or any amount remaining unclaimed for more than ten years shall be credited to the Fund, within a period of three months from the expiry of the said period of ten years. The Fund shall be utilized for promotion of depositors’ interest and for such other purposes which may be necessary for the promotion of depositors’ interests as specified by RBI from time to time. The depositor would, however, be entitled to claim from the bank her deposit or any other unclaimed amount or operate her account after the expiry of ten years, even after such amount has been transferred to the Fund. The bank would be liable to pay the amount to the depositor/claimant and claim refund of such amount from the Fund.
3. The draft Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme was placed on Reserve Bank of India website for public comments. Taking into account the comments received from various stakeholders, the ‘Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014’ has been finalized and forwarded to Government of India for notifying in the Official Gazette. A copy of the Scheme is enclosed for your information. All banks are advised to be in readiness to take necessary action as the Scheme would be effective on the date of Notification in the Official Gazette. The operational guidelines would be advised separately as soon as the Scheme is notified.

4. Further banks are also advised to designate a single contact point for any correspondence/ queries in connection with the ‘Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014’ and provide the contact details as per Annex by email.

Yours faithfully,

(Rajesh Verma)
Chief General Manager

Encl: As above
Annex

To,

The Chief General Manager  
Department of Banking Operations and Development  
Central Office  
Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Cell,  
Reserve Bank of India  
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg  
Fort  
Mumbai - 400 001.

Sir/ Madam,

Sub – Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014 - Contact details

In connection with the captioned Scheme the details of the contact officer and alternate officer may be provided as under :-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Contact Officer</th>
<th>Alternate Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Name of the Contact Officer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Designation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Telephone No</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fax No.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Email Id</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above details may be forwarded by e-mail.

Yours faithfully,

Name:  
Signature:  
Designation of Officer:  
Name of the Bank:  
Place:  
Address:  
Date:  
(Stamp of the bank)
The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014

The Reserve Bank of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (5) of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949) and of all the powers enabling it in this behalf, hereby makes the following Scheme:-

Chapter I

1. Short Title and Commencement:

(i) This Scheme may be called The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.

(ii) This Scheme shall come into force with effect from the date on which it is notified in the Official Gazette.

Chapter II

2. Definitions:

In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires:-

(i) (a) ‘Act’ means the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949);

(b) ‘bank’ means a banking company, a co-operative bank, multi-state co-operative bank, State Bank of India, a subsidiary bank, a corresponding new bank and a regional rural bank;

(c) ‘Fund’ means the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund established under paragraph 3;

(d) ‘Committee’ means the Committee constituted under paragraph 8 to administer the Fund;

(e) ‘Effective date’ means the date on which the Scheme is notified in the Official Gazette;
3. Establishment of the Fund and Credits therein:

(i) Reserve Bank hereby establishes a Fund to be called the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund referred to in Section 26A of the Act.

(ii) The amounts to be credited to the Fund by banks shall be deposited in the specified account maintained with the Reserve Bank.

(iii) For the purpose of this paragraph, the amounts to be credited to the Fund shall be the credit balance in any deposit account maintained with banks which have not been operated upon for ten years or more, or any amount remaining unclaimed for ten years or more, which include:-

(a) savings bank deposit accounts;

(b) fixed or term deposit accounts;

(c) cumulative/recurring deposit accounts;

(d) current deposit accounts;

(e) other deposit accounts in any form or with any name;

(f) cash credit accounts;

(g) loan accounts after due appropriation by the banks;
(h) margin money against issue of Letter of Credit/Guarantee etc., or any security
deposit;
(i) outstanding telegraphic transfers, mail transfers, demand drafts, pay orders,
bankers cheques, sundry deposit accounts, vosto accounts, inter-bank clearing
adjustments, unadjusted National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) credit balances
and other such transitory accounts, unreconciled credit balances on account of
Automated Teller Machine (ATM) transactions, etc.;
(j) undrawn balance amounts remaining in any prepaid card issued by banks but not
amounts outstanding against travellers cheques or other similar instruments, which
have no maturity period;
(k) rupee proceeds of foreign currency deposits held by banks after conversion of
foreign currency to rupees in accordance with extant foreign exchange regulations;
and
(l) such other amounts as may be specified by the Reserve Bank from time to time.
(iv) Any amount payable in foreign currency under an instrument or a transaction,
that has remained unclaimed for ten years or more, shall at the time of transfer to the
Fund be converted into Indian Rupees at the exchange rate prevailing on that date
and in the event of a claim, the Fund shall be liable to refund only the Indian Rupees
received by the Fund with respect to such instrument or transaction.
(v) A bank shall transfer to the Fund the entire amount as specified in sub-paragraph
(iii), including the accrued interest that the bank would have been required to pay to
the customer/ depositor as on the date of transfer to the Fund.
(vi) A bank shall calculate the cumulative balances in all such accounts as specified
in sub-paragraphs (iii) and (iv), as on the day prior to the effective date and transfer
the amount to the Fund on the last working day of subsequent month along with the
interest accrued as specified in sub-paragraph (v).
(vii) From the effective date, banks are required to transfer to the Fund the amounts
becoming due in each calendar month (i.e. balances remaining unclaimed for ten
years or more) as specified in sub-paragraphs (iii) and (iv) and the interest accrued
thereon as specified in sub-paragraph (v), on the last working day of the subsequent month.

(viii) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Banking Companies (Period of Preservation of Records) Rules, 1985, or Co-operative Banks (Period of Preservation of Records) Rules, 1985, banks shall preserve records/documents containing details of all accounts and transactions, including deposit accounts in respect of which amounts are required to be credited to the Fund permanently; and where refund has been claimed from the Fund, banks shall preserve records/documents in respect of such accounts and transactions, for a period of at least five years from the date of refund from the Fund.

(ix) Reserve Bank may call for all relevant information in respect of an account or deposit or transaction for which a claim for refund has been submitted by a bank.

4. Refunds and Interest:

(i) In case of demand from a customer/depositor whose unclaimed amount/deposit had been transferred to Fund, banks shall repay the customer/depositor, along with interest if applicable, and lodge a claim for refund from the Fund for an equivalent amount paid to the customer/depositor.

(ii) The interest payable, if any, from the Fund on a claim shall accrue only from the date on which the balance in an account was transferred to the Fund to the date of payment to the customer/depositor. No interest shall be payable in respect of amounts refunded from the Fund, in respect of which no interest was payable by the bank to its customer/depositor.

(iii) Rate of interest, if any, payable on the principal amount transferred to the Fund shall be specified by Reserve Bank from time to time.

(iv) In the case of a claim for refund of foreign currency denominated deposit accounts, instruments or transactions specified in paragraphs 3 (iii) (k) and 3 (iv), irrespective of whether the banks have paid the depositor/customer in Indian rupees
or foreign currency, the banks shall be entitled to claim refund of the eligible amount from the Fund, in Indian rupees only.

(v) In case of any claim for refund of part amount by the depositor whose unclaimed amount/inoperative deposit had been transferred to the Fund, the account will be revived and will become operative. The bank shall claim the entire amount transferred to the Fund in respect of such depositor along with interest payable, if any, from the Fund.

(vi) Refunds made by a bank in each calendar month should be claimed for reimbursement from the Fund on the last working day of the subsequent month.

(vii) In the case of a bank under liquidation, during the pendency of the liquidation proceedings, if any claim is received from depositors whose deposits were covered by DICGC insurance at the time of transfer to the Fund, the Fund shall pay to the liquidator, an amount equal to the amount that could have been claimed from DICGC with respect to such deposits, and with respect to all other amounts paid by the liquidator towards the amounts transferred to the Fund, whether insured by DICGC or not, the Fund shall reimburse the liquidator.

5. Banks to submit Returns:

Banks shall furnish returns to Reserve Bank in the form and manner as prescribed by Reserve Bank from time to time.

6. Accounts:

(i) The Fund shall maintain its accounts including Income and Expenditure Statement in the form and manner as prescribed by the Committee.

(ii) The amounts credited to the account of the Fund, maintained with Reserve Bank shall form part of Reserve Bank Balance Sheet.

(iii) The amounts credited to the account of the Fund may be invested by Reserve Bank in such manner as prescribed by the Committee.

(iv) All income of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.
(v) All expenditure incurred for the promotion of depositors’ education, awareness, interests and other purposes that may be specified by Reserve Bank under Section 26A (4) of the Act, shall be charged to the Fund.

7. Audit of Accounts:

(i) The accounting year for the Fund shall be from April 1 to March 31 of the subsequent year.

(ii) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the statutory auditor of the Reserve Bank or any other auditors as directed by the Reserve Bank.

(iii) The Annual Accounts of the Fund, at the end of each accounting year, shall be placed before the Central Board of the Reserve Bank, along with the report of auditors and the activity report of the Fund.

Chapter III

Constitution, Management and Functions of the Committee

8. Constitution of the Committee:

(i) There shall be a Committee to administer and manage the Fund in accordance with the Scheme.

(ii) The Committee shall consist of an ex-officio Chairperson and not more than six members as decided by the Reserve Bank. The detail of the composition of the Committee is as follows:

(a) a Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank, nominated by Governor, shall be the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee;

(b) not more than two officers of Reserve Bank, not below the rank of Chief General Manager, nominated by it in this behalf;
(c) Chairman and Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer of a bank by rotation, as nominated by the Reserve Bank;
(d) one person nominated by Reserve Bank, who is considered as expert in the field of banking or accounting or any other field, which the Reserve Bank considers appropriate;
(e) one person nominated by Reserve Bank, representing the interests of customers and depositors of banks, drawn from amongst organisations or associations formed by such customers or depositors and
(f) an officer, not below the rank of Chief General Manager, nominated by Reserve Bank to act as Member Secretary to the Committee.
(iii) The members, except the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee, shall hold office for a period of two years and thereafter until their successors shall have been nominated.
(iv) A retiring member shall be eligible for re-nomination.
(v) Reserve Bank shall provide Secretariat for the Committee and necessary infrastructure and manpower to assist the Committee in the administration of the Fund.
(vi) The Committee may constitute one or more Sub-Committees, from amongst its members, whenever it deems necessary to do so, to facilitate efficient and speedy discharge of its functions.
(vii) Any defect in the constitution or any vacancy in the Committee would not invalidate any proceedings of the Committee or the decisions taken by the Committee.
(viii) The members mentioned at sub-paragraphs (ii)(d) and (ii)(e) shall be entitled to remuneration, as determined by Reserve Bank, from time to time for the meetings attended by them.
9. Functions and Objectives of the Committee:

(i) The Committee shall meet as and when necessary, but at least once in a quarter. The quorum for each meeting shall be at least the Chairman and one-third of its total members.

(ii) The Committee shall frame its own rules of business.

(iii) The Fund shall be utilised for promotion of depositors’ interests and for such other purposes which may be necessary for promotion of depositors’ interest as may be specified by the Reserve Bank. The Committee shall function keeping in view the purposes contemplated in Section 26A(4) of the Act and in accordance with the purposes that may be specified by Reserve Bank in this regard from time to time.

(iv) The Committee may from time to time lay down a list of activities, the criteria and procedure, etc. for incurring expenditure and achieving the objectives of the Fund.

(v) The Committee shall administer the Fund and shall exercise all powers on behalf of the Fund, including incurring of all expenditure that may be charged to the Fund, and keeping the corpus of the Fund invested.

(vi) The expenses of the Committee and other expenses for administration of the Fund shall be charged to the Fund as decided by the Committee.

(vii) For facilitating the Reserve Bank for determination of the rate of interest payable by the Fund to the depositors, the Committee shall provide to the Reserve Bank such information on the income and expenditure of the Fund as may be required.

10. Power to call upon the banks:

(i) The Committee may call upon any bank to pay the amount due to the Fund.

(ii) The Committee may call for any information from banks relating to unclaimed amounts and the inoperative accounts, in general or a bank in particular, from time to time, and it shall be the duty of such banks/bank to furnish the information sought by the Committee.
11. Promotion of Depositors’ Interests and recognition of entities:

(i) For the promotion of depositors’ interests, the Committee may register/recognise from time to time various institutions, organizations or associations, engaged in activities relating to depositor awareness and education, including those proposing to conduct programmes for depositors of banks, organizing seminars and symposia for depositors and undertaking projects and research activities relating to these areas.

(ii) Institutions, organizations or associations registered/recognized by the Committee may be considered for grant of funds as a grant-in-aid either as one time measure or in stages or by way of reimbursement, depending upon the nature of the activity proposed.

(iii) The Committee shall determine and lay down the criteria for grant of financial assistance to institutions, organizations and associations, as stated in sub-paragraph (i).

(iv) The Committee may examine the proposals and the proposed end use of grants and assistance before authorising release of funds.

(v) The Committee may call for information in respect of or verify in any manner, the end use of funds granted to such institutions, organizations or associations.

(vi) The Committee may take such action as it deems fit in the interests of the Fund, including legal action, as and when considered necessary.

12. Interpretation of the provisions of the Scheme:

If any issue arises in the interpretation of the provisions of the Scheme, the matter shall be referred to the Reserve Bank, and the decision of the Reserve Bank thereon shall be final.
13. Amendment of the Scheme:

The Reserve Bank may amend any or all the provisions of the Scheme anytime, if deemed necessary by giving a Gazette Notification.

14. Power to remove difficulties:

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Scheme, the Reserve Bank may take such actions or pass such orders, as may appear necessary for the purpose of removing such difficulty.

(B. Mahapatra)
Executive Director