

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF STATE LEVEL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR RSETIS IN J&K HELD ON 25TH JULY 2012

A meeting of the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) for RSETIs in J&K State was held on 25th of July 2012 at J&K Bank, Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar. The meeting was co-chaired by the Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Rural Development Department Mr. F. A. Peer and the Executive President, J&K Bank (Convenor Bank) Mr. G. M. Sahibzada and was attended by President (A&AP), J&K Bank, DGM, Reserve Bank of India, Mr. B. S. Katoch, AGM, State Bank of India Mr. P. K. Abrol, Vice President (LBD/SLBC) Mr. M. S. Wani, Vice President (A&AP), Mr. A. K. Pandita, and Sr. Executive (A&AP), Mr. Showkat Hussain. Representative of CGM, NABARD, R.O. Jammu did not attend despite notice.

At the outset the Vice President (LBD/SLBC) Mr. M. S. Wani extended a warm welcome to the Commissioner/ Secretary, Rural Development, Mr. F. A. Peer and all other participants of the meeting and briefed them about the GoI, MoRD programme of setting up Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in all districts of the country and also briefed about aim and objective of convening the meeting. Thereafter, agenda of the meeting was taken up for deliberation as under:

Agenda Item No.01

Progress achieved in setting up of RSETIs in J&K State by the concerned banks, viz. J&K Bank and State Bank of India:

The President, J&K Bank Mr. Nayeem-ullah informed the forum that J&K Bank has operationalized the RSETIs in all its allocated 12 districts.

The AGM, State Bank of India, Mr. P. K. Abrol informed that State Bank of India has set up RSETIs in all the districts except in Leh and Kargil districts. Responding to the query of Commissioner/ Secretary, Rural Development regarding possible timelines for setting up the RSETIs in the remaining 2 districts of Leh and Kargil, the representative of SBI stated that the Bank is looking for suitable premises in both the districts for the purpose and the issue is also being taken up with the District Administration.

The forum expressed satisfaction that out of 22 districts of the State, RSETIs in 20 districts are already operational. State Bank of India was advised to ensure that RSETIs in the remaining two districts of Leh and Kargil are operationalized soon.

(Action: State Bank of India)

Agenda Items No. 02 & 03

Training Programmes conducted by the RSETIs/ Sponsoring of applications and selection of trainees:

The Vice President (LBD/SLBC), Mr. M. S. Wani pointed out that none of the RSETIs in J&K State have brought out the Calendar of programmes to be conducted by them. He stressed upon the RSETIs the need to draw a systematic calendar of programmes, which should be known to all and also pleaded for putting in place a monitoring mechanism for respective RSETIs and stressed that the concerned banks should designate an officer who would visit the RSETIs on periodical basis.

During the discussion the following four issues came up for discussion:

- Role of DRDAs in sponsoring candidates to the RSETIs
- Selection process of trainees / Role of Local Advisory Committees;
- Age limit of the trainees:

Role of DRDAs

It was observed that DRDAs are not playing the active role in sponsoring suitable candidates to the RSETIs. DRDAs should sponsor trade-wise batches to RSETIs and while calling applications

for trainings local candidates especially those belonging to BPL category should be given preference.

Since under the GoI, MoRD guidelines responsibility to sponsor candidates to RSETIs devolves on the DRDAs, need was felt to activate the DRDAs and sensitize them about their role and responsibilities in this regard. The Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development assured he will organize meetings for sensitizing the DRDAs in the matter.

The Executive President, J&K Bank, Mr. G. M. Sahibzada desired that the Vice President (LBD/SLBC) should be invited to such meetings as and when convened by the government.

(Action: Comm./ Secretary Rural Dev., J&K Govt.)

Selection process of trainees/ Role of Local Advisory Committees (Lacs):

The DGM, Reserve Bank of India, Mr. B. S. Katoch stated that process of selection of trainees has to be decided by the Local Advisory Committees (Lacs) where besides the Director, RSETIs, representatives from DRDAs, Employment Exchange Officer, LDM, DDM (NABARD), DIC, technical institutions operating in the district like ITIs, Polytechnics etc. are all present. The forum observed that the Local Advisory Committees for all the RSETIs have been already constituted.

Commenting on the composition of Local Advisory Committees, the Commissioner/ Secretary, Rural Development stressed that since senior officers from some essential Government departments happen to be members of these Local Advisory Committees with very important functions like deciding number of candidates, selection of skills, selection of trainees etc., there is need for issuing suitable instructions from the Government to the said Government officers. He assured that this shall be formalized soon through a Government Order to be issued by the General Administration Department of J&K Govt.

Age limit of trainees:

During the deliberations it was observed that no care is being taken while selecting candidates of proper age limit for trainings in the RSETIs. The GoI, MoRD guidelines are silent regarding the age limit of the trainees and there are instances that persons of very senior age have been selected to receive skill building training from RSETIs, which would be often futile as the intention behind providing training in RSETIs is to produce skilled persons to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed. Therefore, need was felt to issue appropriate instructions with regard to upper age limit of the candidates. The Commissioner/ Secretary, Rural Development Department assured the forum that the Government will issue appropriate instructions in this regard very soon.

(Action: Com./ Secretary, Rural Dev., J&K Govt.)

Agenda Item No. 04

Difficulties being faced by the RSETIs so established in J&K State / Non-reimbursement of training costs by DRDAs:

Despite the GoI, MoRD directive that MoRD through the DRDAs will provide support towards cost of training for rural BPL candidates to the sponsor banks at the rate of Rs.200/- per candidate per day to a maximum of Rs.4000 for training upto 4 weeks duration and Rs.5000 for training of longer duration, it was observed in the meeting that DRDAs are not extending proper cooperation to the sponsoring banks, who have been facing difficulties in getting the training costs reimbursed from the DRDAs.

The Commissioner/ Secretary to Govt. Rural Development Department assured that the matter would be looked into by the Government and the issue would be sorted out soon.

(Action: Com./Secretary, Rural Dev. Deptt, J&K Govt.)

Agenda Item No: 05

Status regarding allotment of land to the RSETIs by State Government:

Representatives of both the sponsoring banks, viz. J&K Bank and State Bank of India stated that despite clear guidelines from the GoI, MoRD there has been no progress in allotment of land for the RSETIs and consequently all the RSETIs are functioning from the rented premises.

The President (A&AP), J&K Bank pointed out that although guidelines provide that GoI, MoRD would release Rs.10.00 lakh from the overall funding support of Rs.1.00 Crore to RSETIs to meet the monthly rentals for first three years till the RSETIs create their own buildings, yet for seeking assistance of Rs.10.00 lakh from GoI to meet the rentals for hired premises of RSETIs, the GoI has made it mandatory to produce land allotment document from the State Government, without which the RSETIs would not be able to seek the grant assistance from GoI. The Vice President (SLBC) requested the Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development to consider allotment of land for setting up the RSETIs on priority basis.

Attributing the delay caused in allotment of land to RSETIs of SBI to some legal hitches being faced by the Government in view of the peculiar land laws of the State, the Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development, assured that the issue would be sorted out soon. The AGM, State Bank of India pointed out that Government will have to transfer the land to the Trust created by the banks for the purpose.

Suggesting that the Government could transfer the land to RSETIs on lease bases, Vice President (LBD/SLBC) pleaded that a document for allotment of land was imperative for the RSETIs for enabling them to go ahead with the constructions of buildings, for which RSETIs have to approach NIRD for release of funding assistance of Rs.1.00 Crore, which is blocked only due to allotment letter of land from the Government. He stated that in case suitable land is allotted by the Government and proper infrastructure is created, the RSETIs would become model institutions for the State. The Executive President stressed the need for setting a time-line for allotment of land to the RSETIs.

Summing up discussions on the issue, the Commissioner/ Secretary to Govt. Rural Development Department stated that the government will consider the suggestions and assured that some officer of the Government will be put on the job, who will visit all districts, get the suitable land identified and allotted to the RSETIs accordingly.

(Action: Commissioner/ Secretary, Rural Dev., J&K Govt.)

Other issues deliberated in the meeting:

- The DGM, RBI, Mr. Katoch pleaded that mere issuance of skill certificate to the trainees would not serve the purpose and handholding of the trained persons was a must for enabling them to acquire a gainful economic activity.
- In future, metrics for feedback should be included in the agenda, so as to have an idea as to whether the trainings being imparted in the RSETIs are really useful.
- It was observed that the RSETIs so far set up by the J&K Bank and State Bank of India are all operating from rented premises and are lacking proper infrastructural facilities. Accordingly, these RSETIs do not have residential facilities available. It was decided that concerned banks should explore possibilities of outsourcing these facilities.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair,

Executive Manager
Lead Bank/ J&K SLBC