

These are operational guidelines for Component 4: "Self Employment Programme (SEP)" of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) only. To be read along with the Mission Document / Main Guidelines of NULM, and may make reference to operational guidelines of other components of NULM.

COMPONENT 4: SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME (SEP)

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. This component will focus on financial assistance to individuals/groups of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures/ micro-enterprises, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. The component will also support Self Help Groups (SHGs) of urban poor to access easy credit from bank and avail interest subsidy on SHG loans. The component will further focus on technology, marketing and other support services to the individuals, group entrepreneurs, SHG members and Urban street vendors/ hawkers engaged in micro enterprises for their livelihoods. The component will also facilitate credit cards for working capital requirement of the entrepreneurs.
- 1.2. The underemployed and unemployed urban poor will be encouraged to set up small enterprises relating to manufacturing, servicing and petty business for which there is considerable local demand. Local skills and local crafts should be particularly encouraged. Each Urban Local Body (ULB) should develop a compendium of such activities/projects keeping in view skills available, marketability of products, costs, economic viability etc.
- 1.3. The percentage of women beneficiaries under SEP shall not be less than 30 percent. SCs and STs must be benefited at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the city/town population of poor. A special provision of 3 percent reservation should be made for the differently-abled under this programme. In view of the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, at least 15 percent of the physical and financial targets under this component shall be earmarked for the minority communities.

2. **Selection of Beneficiary:** The Community Organisers (COs) and professionals from Urban Local Body (ULB) will identify the prospective beneficiaries from among the urban poor. The community structures formed under Social Mobilisation & Institutional

Development (SM&ID) component of NULM viz: Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Area Level Federations (ALFs) may also refer prospective individual and group entrepreneurs for purpose of financial assistance under SEP to ULB. The beneficiaries may directly approach ULB or its representatives for assistance. Banks may also identify prospective beneficiaries at their end and send such cases directly to ULB.

3. Educational Qualifications and Training Requirement: No minimum educational qualification is required for prospective beneficiaries under this component. However where the identified activity for micro-enterprise development requires some special skills appropriate training must be provided to the beneficiaries before extending financial support by linking for training under **Component 3: Employment through Skills Training and Placement (EST&P)**. Financial assistance should be extended only after the prospective beneficiary has acquired required skills for running the proposed micro-enterprise.

3.1. Such training may not be necessary if the beneficiary has already undergone training from a known institution, registered NGO/Voluntary Organisation or trained under any government scheme provided requisite certificate is produced. In case the beneficiary has acquired requisite skills from family occupation such cases should be certified by the ULB before extending financial assistance.

3.2. **Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP):** In addition to skill training of the beneficiaries, the ULB will also arrange to conduct Entrepreneurship Development Programme for 3-7 days for individual and group entrepreneurs. The EDP will cover basics of entrepreneurship development such as management of an enterprise, basic accounting, financial management, marketing, backward and forward linkages, legal procedures, costing and revenue etc. In addition to above topics the module should also include group dynamics, allocation of work, profit sharing mechanism etc. for group enterprises.

3.3. The EDP module may be developed and finalised by State Urban Livelihoods Mission (SULM) supported by State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) with assistance of an empanelled institution/agency or consulting firm and same may be utilised for conducting training programme by the ULB. This EDP training may be arranged through institutions such as Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), reputed institutions engaged in entrepreneurship development/ training,

management/ educational institutes, reputed NGOs engaged in entrepreneurship development/ training etc.

3.4. Any cost incurred on training of beneficiaries under this component is to be met out of EST&P component budget.

4. Pattern of Financial Assistance: The financial assistance available to urban poor in setting up individual and group enterprises will be in the form of **Interest subsidy** on the bank loans. Interest subsidy, over and above 7% rate of interest will be available on a bank loan for setting up of individual or group enterprises. The difference between 7% p.a. and the prevailing rate of interest will be provided to banks under NULM. Suitable certification from banks will be obtained in this regard.

5. Procedure for interest subsidy:

5.1. All scheduled commercial banks(SCBs), Regional Rural Banks(RRBs) and cooperative banks, which are on the Core Banking Solution (CBS) platform would be eligible for getting interest subvention under the scheme

5.2. After disbursement of loan to the beneficiaries, the concerned branch of the bank will send details of disbursed loan cases to ULB along with details of interest subsidy amount.

5.3. The settlement of claims made by banks would be done on quarterly basis by the ULBs, however the submission of claims should be monthly. The ULB will check the data at their end and will release the interest subsidy amount (difference between 7% p.a. and prevailing rate of interest) to the banks.

5.4. A prescribed format for interest subsidy claims for loans under this component enclosed at (**Annexure-V**).

5.5. The State Level Bankers Committees (SLBCs) have the option of evolving any alternative procedure of aggregating/ sanction of claims in consultation with the state government.

5.6. The pending claims should not be more than a quarter. In case the claims of the banks are not settled for a period of 6 months, SLBC is empowered to stop the scheme temporarily in selected cities subject to clearance of claims by such ULBs. In such eventualities, the claims settlement should prospectively be given to the Lead District Bank.

6. Sub-Component 4.1-Individual Enterprises (SEP-I)-Loan & Subsidy

- 6.1. An urban poor individual beneficiary desirous of setting up an individual micro-enterprise for self-employment can avail benefit of subsidised loan under this component from any bank. The norms/ specifications for individual micro-enterprise loans are as follows
- 6.2. **Age:** The prospective beneficiary should have attained the age of **18 Years** at the time of applying for loan.
- 6.3. **Project Cost (PC):** The Maximum unit Project Cost for individual micro-enterprises cases is Rs 200,000 (Rs Two Lakhs)
- 6.4. **Collateral on Bank Loan:** No collateral required. *As per RBI Circular RPCD.SME & NFS. BC. No. 79 /06.02.31/2009-10 dated May 6, 2010 banks are mandated **not** to accept collateral security in the case of loans upto **10 lakhs** extended to units in the MSE sector (**Annexure-I**).* Therefore only the assets created would be hypothecated/ mortgaged/ pledged to banks for advancing loans. The banks may approach Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) setup by Small Industries Development Bank (SIDBI) and Government of India for the purpose of availing guarantee cover for SEP loans as per the eligibility of the activity for guarantee cover (Details of the scheme are at **Annexure-II**)
- 6.5. **Repayment:** Repayment schedule ranges from 5 to 7 Years after initial moratorium of 6-18 months as per norms of the banks.

7. Sub-Component 4.2-Group Enterprises (SEP-G) -Loan & Subsidy

A Self Help Group (SHG) or members of an SHG constituted under SJSRY/ NULM or a group of urban poor desirous of setting up a group enterprise for self-employment can avail benefit of subsidised loans under this component from any bank. The norms/ specifications for group micro-enterprise loans are as follows

- 7.1. **Eligibility:** The group enterprise should have minimum 5 members with a minimum of **70% members from urban poor families**. The application/ intent to set up a group enterprise by beneficiaries/ group members should preferably be referred by the community structures viz: SHG/ ALF formed under SJSRY/NULM.
- 7.2. **Age:** All members of the group enterprise should have attained an age of 18 years at the time of applying for bank loan.
- 7.3. **Project Cost (PC):** The Maximum unit Project Cost for a group enterprise is **Rs 10,00,000**(Rs Ten Lakhs)

- 7.4. **Loan:** Project Cost less the beneficiary contribution (as specified by bank) would be made available as loan amount to the group enterprise by the bank.
- 7.5. **Collateral Guarantee on Bank Loan:** No collateral guarantee required. Only the assets created would be hypothecated/ mortgaged/ pledged to banks for advancing loans. The banks may approach Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) as detailed in Para-5.4.
- 7.6. **Repayment:** Repayment schedule ranges from 5 to 7 Years after initial moratorium of 6- 18 months as decided by banks.

8. Procedure for Sponsoring of Applications:

- 8.1. The application for individual and group enterprise loans will be sponsored by the Urban Local Body (ULB) which will be the sponsoring agency for the individual and group enterprise.
- 8.2. The ULB will create awareness regarding SEP to the prospective beneficiaries through mass media campaigns, IEC activities, advertisements in local newspapers, City Livelihoods Centres (CLCs) etc. The ULB may also disseminate information regarding this component through active involvement of Resource Organisations and its field staff.
- 8.3. The beneficiaries desirous of seeking financial assistance for setting up an enterprise can submit an application of intent to the concerned ULB officials on a plain paper with basic details viz: Name, Age, Contact details, Address, Aadhaar details (if any), amount of loan required, bank account number (if available), type of enterprise/ activity, category etc. The intent could also be sent by mail /post to the ULB office. The ULB shall accept such intents throughout the year.
- 8.4. The community structures formed under Social Mobilisation & Institutional Development (SM&ID) component of NULM viz: Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Area Level Federations (ALFs) may also refer prospective individual and group entrepreneurs for purpose of financial assistance under SEP to ULB.
- 8.5. On submission/receipt of the intent from the beneficiary the respective ULB will enter the details in a register/or MIS if available and hence will generate a waiting list of beneficiaries. The ULB will issue an acknowledgement to the beneficiary with a unique registration number, which may be used as a reference number for tracking the status of application.
- 8.6. Banks may also identify beneficiaries as per the eligibility criterion and receive the intent letter. The applications received directly by the banks will be referred to the ULB. The applications in this case will also form a part of the waiting list.

- 8.7. ULB will call the beneficiaries in order of the waiting list to complete requisite documentation including filling of Loan Application Form (LAF), activity details, identity proof, address proof, bank account details etc. The SULM may develop a **Loan Application Form (LAF)** in suitable format in consultation with State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) convenor bank. The same LAF may be utilised across the State.
- 8.8. The applications completed in all respect will be sent to the TASK force constituted at ULB level for scrutiny, which will call the prospective beneficiaries for an interview before recommending or rejecting the application or call for additional information from the applicant if required.
- 8.9. The case duly recommended by the task force will be forwarded by the ULB to the concerned banks for further processing. Such cases recommended by task force have to be processed by concerned banks with in a time frame of **15 days**. As these cases are already recommended by the task force, such cases should be rejected by banks only in exceptional circumstances.
- 8.10. The banks will send a periodic report to the ULB on the status of the applications received. In case of MIS being used, the banks may be allowed to update the status of application online in addition to manual report.

9. Task Force at ULB Level

- 9.1. A Task Force may be constituted at ULB level for recommending cases for individual and group enterprises for onward transmission to the banks by the ULB. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ Municipal Commissioner of ULB will be responsible to constitute the Task Force and will be **The Chairman** of the Task force. There could be **more than 1 task force** at ULB level depending upon the size/population of the ULB. The indicative composition of the Task Force is as follows

Sr No	TASK Force at ULB level	Role
1.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) ULB/ Municipal Commissioner of ULB/ or any representative authorised by CEO ULB	Chairman
2.	Lead District Manager (LDM)	Member
3.	City Project Officer (CPO), ULB/ or any authorised representative of ULB	Member Convenor
4.	Representative from District Industries Centre (DIC)	Member
5.	Senior Branch Managers (Max-2) of banks	Member
6.	Representatives(2) of Area Level Federation / City Level Federation	Member

- 9.2. The ULB will forward the applications to the task force, which will be scrutinized based on experience, skills, viability of activity, scope of the activity etc. Thereafter the Task Force will shortlist the applications and call for interview of the applicants.
- 9.3. The task force will then recommend the applications if found suitable, reject if found unsuitable or ask the beneficiary to submit further requisite information for re-examination on case to case basis.

10. Linkage with Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) of Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)

The banks may approach Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) setup by Small Industries Development Bank (SIDBI) and Government of India for the purpose of availing guarantee cover for SEP loans as per the eligibility of the activity for guarantee cover. The details of the scheme are provided at **Annexure-II**. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its circular dated 06th May 2010 has also directed the banks to take Credit Guarantee Scheme cover instead of collateral security (**Annexure-I**).

11. Progress Reporting for SEP-I & SEP-G

- 11.1. The ULB will prepare a data sheet of the applications recommended by the TASK force along with their status details of the sanction, disbursement and rejection (along with reasons) after validating the same with the respective banks. This data sheet will be sent to SULM on a monthly basis.
- 11.2. The SULM will compile all the reports received from respective ULBs and will communicate to M/o HUPA on a monthly basis.
- 11.3. SULM must ensure that progress under SEP is reviewed in every SLBC and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings. Any other important issue with regard to SEP may be taken up by SULM with SLBC convenor bank for effective coordination and implementation.

12. Sub-Component 4.3- Interest Subsidy on SHG Loans (SHG-Bank Linkage)

- 12.1. Linking of SHGs with banks have been emphasized in the Monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India and Union Budget announcements from time to time and various guidelines in this regard have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) to banks. To scale up the SHGs linkage programme and make it sustainable, banks have been advised to consider lending to SHGs as part of their mainstream credit operations both at policy and implementation level.
- 12.2. As per Master Circular on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme by Reserve Bank of India ([RPCD.FID. BC .No. 10/12.01.033/ 2013-14 dated 01 July 2013-Annexure-III](#)) RBI has instructed the banks for SHG bank Linkage. SHG Bank Linkage includes **Opening of Savings Bank Account** of Self Help Groups (whether registered or unregistered), which are engaged in promoting habit of savings among their members as a starting point. Thereafter the SHGs may be sanctioned **Savings Linked Loans** (varying from a saving to loan ratio of 1:1 to 1:4) after due assessment or grading by banks. However, in case of matured SHGs, loans may be given beyond the limit of four times the savings as per the discretion of the bank. The RBI has also instructed that the advances to SHGs' irrespective of the purposes for which the members of SHGs should be included by the banks as part of their lending to the weaker sections.
- 12.3. Under Social Mobilisation & Institution Development (SM&ID) component of NULM the ULB will do necessary groundwork to open bank accounts for SHGs and facilitating access to Revolving Fund (RF). The ULB may also engage Resource Organisation (RO) for the purpose or may directly facilitate SHGs through its staff.**(Concept & Formation of SHGs, ROs and Revolving Fund**

has been detailed out in Social Mobilisation & Institutional Development (SM&ID) component of NULM).

- 12.4. With a view to provide access to credit at affordable rate of interest to the urban poor, NULM will provide interest subsidy for SHGs accessing bank loan. The interest subsidy will be the difference between the prevailing rate of interest charged by the bank and 7% per annum, on all loans to SHGs of urban poor. This difference in interest amount on SHG loan (between the prevailing rate of interest and 7% per annum) will be reimbursed to banks.
- 12.5. An additional 3 percent interest subvention will be provided to all **Women SHGs (WSHGs)**, who repay their loan in time. The Interest subsidy will be subject to timely repayment of the loan (as per the loan repayment schedule) and suitable certification obtained from banks by the ULB. The additional 3% interest subvention amount will be reimbursed to the eligible WSHGs. The banks should credit the amount of 3% interest subvention to the eligible WSHGs accounts and thereafter seek the reimbursement.
- 12.6. The ULB through its field staff or Resource Organisation (ROs) will facilitate filling of loan applications for eligible SHGs to access credit from the banks. The ULB will be responsible to forward the Loan application of the SHGs to the concerned banks with requisite documentation. The ULB will maintain area wise, bank-wise, ROs/ Staff wise data of SHGs loan applications forwarded to the banks. The same will be sent to SULM on a monthly basis.
- 12.7. The banks will send the details of disbursed loan cases to the ULB along with the calculation details of the interest subsidy amount. The ULB will check the data at their end and will release the interest subsidy amount on quarterly basis to the banks following a similar procedure as mentioned in **Para 5**. The prescribed format for claiming the additional interest subvention is enclosed at **(Annexure-VI)**.
- 12.8. In order to ensure effective SHG-Bank Linkage under NULM, the SULM will monitor and review the progress with banks on regular basis and co-ordinate with SLBC for interest subsidy/ subvention on SHG Loans in the state. Active involvement of State level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and lead banks may be ensured for sensitization of bank and branch staff for financial inclusion of urban poor.
- 12.9. It may be noted that the identification, selection, formation and monitoring of SHGs who are to get interest subvention would be the responsibility of State/ ULBs and banks would not be liable for wrong identification of SHGs who get interest subvention.

12.10. RBI guidelines for prompt repayment are as follows

12.10.1. For Cash Credit Limit to SHGs:

- i. Outstanding balance shall not have remained in excess of the sanctioned limit/ drawing power continuously for more than 30 days.
- ii. There should be regular credits and debits in the account. In any case there shall be at least one customer induced credit during the month.
- iii. Customer induced Credits during a month shall be sufficient to cover the interest debited during the month.

12.10.2. For Term Loan to SHGs: A term loan account where all of the interest payments and/or instalments of principal were paid within 30 days of the due date during the entire tenure of the loans would be considered as an account having prompt payment.

The prompt payment guidelines will continue to be guided by RBI guidelines on the subject in future.

13. Sub-Component 4.4- Credit Card for enterprise development

13.1. The financial assistance to the individual entrepreneurs through subsidised loan for setting up of enterprises under NULM could be viewed as initial impetus to facilitate livelihood support to the urban poor. However the individual entrepreneurs require further financial support in terms of working capital to make the enterprise economically sustainable. This may include immediate and short term monthly requirement of cash for meeting expenses for purchase of goods, raw materials and other miscellaneous expenditures etc. The micro-entrepreneur does not have a regular fixed monthly cash inflow/income to meet expenses arising out of entrepreneurial activities. Also to approach a financial institution for such immediate credit requirement, requires procedural documentation and consumes a lot of time. This need for working capital credit is generally met from informal sources of credit (including money lenders) which is typically available at high rate of interest.

13.2. In order to support the micro-entrepreneurs to meet their working capital and miscellaneous credit needs, NULM will facilitate access to Credit Cards through banks

13.3. The SULM in consultation with the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) will finalise the norms, limits and specifications for issuance of credit card to the individual entrepreneurs. The General Credit Card Scheme (GCC), which is being implemented by all scheduled commercial banks or any other variant of

credit cards for enterprise development of banks in urban areas, may be explored by SULM and SLBC for the same. The details of revised GCC scheme as per RBI notification is provided at **Annexure-IV**

- 13.4. The ULB will identify the prospective beneficiaries and will facilitate linkages with banks for issuance of credit cards. The focus is to initially facilitate issuance of credit card to cover all the beneficiaries who have availed financial assistance under SEP. Additionally other beneficiaries who are running their own business but have not availed assistance under SEP may also be covered if they satisfy the norms of issuance of credit cards.
- 13.5. The targets for the same may be decided at ULB level and the progress under this component is aggregated at SULM level and communicated to M/o HUPA periodically.

14. Sub-Component 4.5–Technology, Marketing and Other Support

- 14.1. Micro entrepreneurs often need support in order to grow and sustain their businesses. Support needed may be for establishment, technology, marketing, and other services. Micro entrepreneurs who run very small businesses may need to gain a better understanding of what the market needs, demand of the products produced by them, prices, where to sell, etc. Support services under this component are envisaged with a view to provide an encouraging environment for development of micro enterprises.
- 14.2. The City Livelihoods Centres (CLCs) established under NULM will offer services to the micro-enterprises such as in establishment (licenses, certificates registration, legal services etc.), production, procurement, technology, processing, marketing, sales, packaging, accounting etc. for long term sustainability. CLC will also provide support in taking up feasibility/ assessment studies on market demand and market strategy for products and services of micro-enterprises.
- 14.3. All SEP individual and groups enterprises can avail the services from CLCs as per the norms of CLCs. The CLCs with support of ULB may also tie up with various other government schemes which offer services and benefits for micro-enterprise development for the benefit of prospective beneficiaries.
- 14.4. The SULM may arrange for additional funds/professional assistance for the purpose of providing above services to CLCs.

15. Funding Pattern

- 15.1. Funding under this component will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. In case of special category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) this ratio will be 90:10 between the Centre and States.
- 15.2. The Ministry will allocate funds to the states on annual basis based on the targets assigned to the states. The states in consultation with the respective SLBCs and ULBs will decide the targets and corresponding funds will be allocated to ULBs so that full reimbursement to the banks on account of Interest subvention is settled during the financial year and no subvention amount overdue or pending with the states. Interest subvention under the scheme will be restricted to the allocated budget for FY 2013-14. The Scheme will be resumed for FY 2014-15 after M/o HUPA gets its budget allocated for the year 2014-15.

16. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 16.1. The SMMU at the State level and CMMU at the ULB level will closely monitor progress of activities / targets under this component, undertake reporting and evaluation. The SULM and the ULB/executing agencies shall report timely progress in formats prescribed by the Mission Directorate from time-to-time, indicating the cumulative achievement monthly and up to the end of the quarter and key issues in implementation.
- 16.2. In addition, under NULM, a comprehensive and robust IT-enabled NULM MIS will be established for tracking targets and achievements. States and ULBs will be required to submit their progress reports online and may also use this tool to monitor progress on the ground. In the spirit of proactive disclosure of information and ensuring transparency under NULM, key progress reports under SEP will also be made available in the public domain in a timely manner.

ANNEXURE-I

RBI/2009-10/449 RPCD.SME & NFS. BC.No. 79 /06.02.31/2009-10 May 6, 2010

The Chairman/ Managing Director

All Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Including Regional Rural Banks and Local Area Banks)

Dear Sir

Working Group to Review the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) – Collateral free loans to MSEs

As you are aware, a Working Group was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to review the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (Chairman: Shri V.K. Sharma, Executive Director, RBI) and suggest measures to enhance its usage. The Report of the Working Group was released on March 6, 2010, which is available on our website (www.rbi.org.in). The Working Group has, inter alia, recommended that

"the limit for collateral free loans to the MSE sector be increased from the present level of Rs. 5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh and it be made mandatory for banks. Banks, in turn, can take cover for the collateral free credit facilities under CGS. In order to upscale the CGS, it is necessary to create widespread awareness about the key features and benefits of the Scheme. As the branch level functionaries have a predilection to lend against collaterals, the Group recommends that the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of banks assume complete and total ownership in the matter of strongly encouraging the branch level functionaries to avail of the CGS cover, including making performance in this regard a criterion in the evaluation of their field staff."

The above recommendations have been accepted by the Reserve Bank of India. Accordingly, in modification of our [circular RPCD.SME & NFS.BC.No.16/06.02.31\(P\)/2009-10 dated August 24, 2009](#), banks are mandated not to accept collateral security in the case of loans upto Rs 10 lakh extended to units in the MSE sector.

2. Banks may also strongly encourage their branch level functionaries to avail of the CGS cover, including making performance in this regard a criterion in the evaluation of their field staff.

3. You are requested to issue suitable instructions to your branches/ controlling offices for meticulous and strict compliance in this regard.
4. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(R.C. Sarangi)
Chief General Manager

CREDIT GUARANTEE FUND SCHEME FOR MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES

Introduction

The Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGMSE) was launched by the Government of India to make available collateral-free credit to the micro and small enterprise sector. Both the existing and the new enterprises are eligible to be covered under the scheme. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), established a Trust named Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) to implement the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises. The scheme was formally launched on August 30, 2000 and is operational with effect from 1st January 2000. The corpus of CGTMSE is being contributed by the Government and SIDBI in the ratio of 4:1 respectively and has contributed Rs.1906.55 crore to the corpus of the Trust up to March 31,2010. As announced in the Package for MSEs, the corpus is to be raised to Rs.2500 crore by the end of 11th Plan.

Eligible Lending Institutions

The institutions, which are eligible under the scheme, are scheduled commercial banks (Public Sector Banks/Private Sector Banks/Foreign Banks) and select Regional Rural Banks (which have been classified under 'Sustainable Viable' category by NABARD). National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) and SIDBI have also been made eligible institutions. As on March 31, 2010, there were 112 eligible Lending Institutions registered as (MLIs) of the Trust, comprising of 27 Public Sector Banks, 16 Private Sector Banks, 61 Regional Rural Banks, 2 Foreign Bank and 6 other Institutions viz., NSIC, NEDFi, SIDBI and The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation(TNIIC).

Eligible Credit Facility

The credit facilities which are eligible to be covered under the scheme are both term loans and working capital facility up to Rs.100 lakh per borrowing unit, extended without any collateral security or third party guarantee, to a new or existing micro and small enterprise. For those units covered under the guarantee scheme, which may become sick owing to factors beyond the control of management, rehabilitation assistance extended by the lender could also be covered under the guarantee scheme. It is noteworthy that if the credit facility exceeds Rs.50 lakh, it may still be

covered under the scheme but the guarantee cover will be extended for credit assistance of Rs.50 lakh only. Another important requirement under the scheme is that the credit facility should be availed by the borrowing unit from a single lending institution. However, the unit already assisted by the State Level Institution/NSIC/NEDFi can be covered under the scheme for the credit facility availed from member bank, subject to fulfilment of other eligibility criteria. Any credit facility in respect of which risks are additionally covered under a scheme, operated by Government or other agencies, will not be eligible for coverage under the scheme.

Guarantee Cover

The guarantee cover available under the scheme is to the extent of 75 per cent of the sanctioned amount of the credit facility. The extent of guarantee cover is 80 per cent for (i) micro enterprises for loans up to Rs.5 lakh; (ii) MSEs operated and/or owned by women; and (iii) all loans in the North-East Region. In case of default, Trust settles the claim up to 75% (or 80% wherever applicable) of the amount in default of the credit facility extended by the lending institution. For this purpose the amount in default is reckoned as the principal amount outstanding in the account of the borrower, in respect of term loan, and amount of outstanding working capital facilities, including interest, as on the date of the account turning Non-Performing Asset (NPA).

Tenure of Guarantee

The Guarantee cover under the scheme is for the agreed tenure of the term loan/composite credit. In case of working capital, the guarantee cover is of 5 years or block of 5 years.

Fee for Guarantee

The fee payable to the Trust under the scheme is one-time guarantee fee of 1.5% and annual service fee of 0.75% on the credit facilities sanctioned. For loans up to Rs.5 lakh, the one-time guarantee fee and annual service fee is 1% and 0.5% respectively. Further, for loans in the North-East Region, the one-time guarantee fee is only 0.75%.

Website

Operations of CGTMSE are conducted through Internet. The website of CGTMSE has been hosted at www.cgtsi.org.in

Scheme Awareness Programmes

CGTMSE has adopted multi-channel approach for creating awareness about its guarantee scheme amongst banks, MSE associations, entrepreneurs, etc. through print and electronic media, by conducting workshops/seminars, attending meetings convened at various district/state/national fora, etc. As on March 31, 2010, 1080 workshops and seminars were conducted on Credit Guarantee Scheme. Also, CGTMSE participated in 19 exhibitions and attended 304 SLBC/meetings convened by RBI/other Government offices. Posters and mailers have been circulated to banks, industry associations, and other stakeholders for promoting the scheme and creating its greater awareness. With a view to imparting training to MLIs through their training colleges, multimedia CD-ROM containing operational modalities of the scheme, was distributed to the staff training centers/colleges of the MLIs. The Trust has recently launched an advertisement campaign in 194 newspapers across the country through DAVP, which has created considerable awareness about the scheme among the target audience.

RPCD.FID. BC.No. 10/12.01.033/ 2013-14 July 01, 2013

The Chairman/ Managing Director/
Chief Executive Officer
All Scheduled Commercial Banks

Dear Sir,

Master Circular on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme

The Reserve Bank of India has, from time to time, issued a number of guidelines/instructions to banks on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme. In order to enable the banks to have instructions at one place, a Master Circular incorporating the existing guidelines/instructions on the subject has been updated and enclosed. This Master Circular consolidates and updates the circulars issued by Reserve Bank on the subject up to June 30, 2013 as indicated in the Appendix.

Yours faithfully

(A. Udgata)

Principal Chief General Manager

Encl: As above

Master Circular on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme

1. Despite the vast expansion of the formal credit system in the country, the dependence of the rural poor on moneylenders somehow continued in many areas, especially for meeting emergent requirements. Such dependence was pronounced in the case of marginal farmers, landless labourers, petty traders and rural artisans belonging to socially and economically backward classes and tribes whose propensity to save is limited or too small to be mopped up by the banks. For various reasons, credit to these sections of the population had not been institutionalized. The studies conducted by NABARD, APRACA and ILO on the informal groups promoted by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) brought out that Self-Help Savings and Credit Groups had the potential to bring together the formal banking structure and the rural poor for mutual benefit and that their working had been encouraging.
2. Accordingly, NABARD launched a pilot project to cover Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promoted by Non-Governmental Organizations, banks and other agencies under the pilot project and supported it by way of refinance. The quick studies conducted by NABARD in a few states to assess the impact of the linkage project brought out encouraging and positive features like increase in loan volume of the SHGs, definite shift in the loaning pattern of the members from non-income generating activities to production activities, nearly 100% recovery performance, significant reduction in the transaction costs for both the banks and the borrowers etc., besides leading to gradual increase in the income level of the SHG members. Another significant feature observed in the linkage project was that about 85% of the groups linked with the banks were formed exclusively by women.
3. With a view to studying the functioning of SHGs and NGOs for expanding their activities and deepening their role in the rural sector, in November 1994, RBI constituted a working Group comprising eminent NGO functionaries, academicians, consultants and bankers under the Chairmanship of Shri S.K. Kalia, the then Managing Director, NABARD. The Working Group was of the view that the linking of SHGs with the banks is a cost effective, transparent and flexible approach to improve the accessibility of credit from the formal

banking system to the unreached rural poor, which is expected to offer the much needed solution to the twin problems being faced by the banks, viz recovery of loans in the rural areas and the high transaction cost in dealing with small borrowers at frequent intervals. The Group, therefore, felt that the thrust of the policy should be to encourage the formation of SHGs and their linking with the banks and in this regard, the banks have a major role to play. The Working Group had recommended that the banks should treat the linkage programme as a business opportunity and they may design area specific and group specific loan packages taking into account inter alia the potential, local needs, available talent/skills etc.

4. The Reserve Bank constituted four informal groups in October 2002 to examine various issues concerning micro-finance delivery. Linking of SHGs with banks have been emphasized in the Monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India and Union Budget announcements from time to time and various guidelines have been issued to banks in this regard. To scale up the SHGs linkage programme and make it sustainable, banks were advised that they may consider lending to SHGs as part of their mainstream credit operations both at policy and implementation level. They may include SHG linkage in their corporate strategy/plan, training curriculum of their officers and staff and implement it as a regular business activity and monitor and review it periodically.
5. **Separate Segment under priority sector:** In order to enable the banks to report their SHG lending without difficulty, it was decided that the banks should report their lending to SHGs and/or to NGOs for on-lending to SHGs/members of SHGs under the new segment, viz. 'Advances to SHGs' irrespective of the purposes for which the members of SHGs have been disbursed loans. Lending to SHGs should be included by the banks as part of their lending to the weaker sections.
6. **Opening of Savings Bank A/c:** The SHGs registered or unregistered which are engaged in promoting savings habits among their members would be eligible to open savings bank accounts with banks. These SHGs need not necessarily have already availed of credit facilities from banks before opening

savings bank accounts. KYC verification of all the members of SHG need not be done while opening the savings bank account of the SHG as KYC verification of all the office bearers would suffice. Further, it is clarified that since KYC would have already been verified while opening the savings bank account and the account continues to be in operation and is being used for credit linkage, no separate KYC verification of the members or office bearers is necessary at the time of credit linking of SHGs,

7. **SHG lending to be a part of planning process:** Bank lending to SHGs should be included in branch credit plan, block credit plan, district credit plan and state credit plan of each bank. While no target is being prescribed under SHG bank linkage programme, utmost priority should be accorded to the sector in preparation of these plans. It should also form an integral part of the bank's corporate credit plan.
8. **Margin and Security Norms:** As per operational guidelines of NABARD, SHGs may be sanctioned savings linked loans by banks (varying from a saving to loan ratio of 1:1 to 1:4). However, in case of matured SHGs, loans may be given beyond the limit of four times the savings as per the discretion of the bank. Experience showed that group dynamics and peer pressure brought in excellent recovery from members of the SHGS. The flexibility allowed to the banks in respect of margin, security norms, etc. under the pilot project continues to be operational under the linkage programme even beyond the pilot phase.
9. **Documentation:** A simple system requiring minimum procedures and documentation is a precondition for augmenting flow of credit to SHGs. Keeping in view the nature of lending and status of borrowers, banks should strive to remove all operational irritants and make arrangements to expeditiously sanction and disburse credit by delegating adequate sanctioning powers to branch managers. The loan application forms, procedures and documents should be made simple. It would help in providing prompt and hassle-free credit.

10. **Presence of defaulters in SHGs:** The defaults by a few members of SHGs and/or their family members to the financing bank should not ordinarily come in the way of financing SHGs per se by banks provided the SHG is not in default to it. However, the bank loan may not be utilized by the SHG for financing a defaulter member to the bank.
11. **Capacity Building and Training:** An important step in the Linkage Programme would be the training of the field level officials and sensitization of the controlling and other senior officials of the bank. Considering the need and magnitude of training requirements of bank officers/staff both at field level and controlling office level, the banks may initiate suitable steps to internalize the SHGs linkage project and organize exclusive short duration programmes for the field level functionaries. In addition, suitable awareness/sensitization programmes may be conducted for their middle level controlling officers as well as senior officers.
12. **Monitoring and Review of SHG Lending:** Having regard to the potential of the SHGs, banks may have to closely monitor the progress regularly at various levels. In order to give a boost to the ongoing SHG bank linkage programme for credit flow to the unorganized sector, banks were advised in January 2004 that monitoring of SHG bank linkage programme may be made a regular item on the agenda for discussion at the SLBC and DCC meetings. It should be reviewed at the highest corporate level on a quarterly basis. Further the progress of the programme may be reviewed by the banks at regular intervals. A progress report may be sent to NABARD (Micro Credit Innovations Department), Mumbai, on a half-yearly basis, as on 30 September and 31 March each year so as to reach within 30 days of the half-year to which the report relates.
13. **Encourage SHG Linkage:** Banks should provide adequate incentives to their branches in financing the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and establish linkages with them, making the procedures absolutely simple and easy while providing for total flexibility in such procedures to suit local conditions. The group dynamics of working of the SHGs may be left to themselves and need neither be regulated nor formal structures imposed or insisted upon. The approach to

financing of SHGs should be totally hassle-free and may include consumption expenditures.

14. **Interest rates:** The interest rate applicable to loans given by banks to Self Help Groups/member beneficiaries would be left to their discretion.

15. **Total Financial Inclusion and Credit Requirement of SHGs:** Banks have been advised to meet the entire credit requirements of SHG members, as envisaged in the Paragraph 93 of the Union Budget announcement made by the Honourable Finance Minister for the year 2008-09 where in it was stated as under: *"Banks will be encouraged to embrace the concept of Total Financial Inclusion. Government will request all scheduled commercial banks to follow the example set by some public sector banks and meet the entire credit requirements of SHG members, namely, (a) income generation activities, (b) social needs like housing, education, marriage, etc. and (c) debt swapping"*.

RBI/2013-14/389

RPCD.MSME & NFS. BC. No. 61/06.02.31/2013-14 December 2, 2013

The Chairman/Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer
All Scheduled Commercial Banks
(Including Regional Rural Banks)

Dear Sir / Madam

Revised General Credit Card (GCC) Scheme

Please refer to our [circular RPCD.CO.No.RRB.BC.59/03.05.33\(F\)/2005-06 dated December 27, 2005](#) and [circular no. RPCD.CO.Plan.BC.No.66/04.09.01/2007-08 dated May 06, 2008](#) on the General Credit Card (GCC) Scheme.

2. During Financial Inclusion Plan (FIP) review meetings held with banks during May-July 2013, it was observed that data reported by banks under GCC is not showing entrepreneurial credit extended to individuals. In order to enhance the coverage of GCC Scheme to ensure greater credit linkage for all productive activities within the overall Priority sector guidelines and to capture all credit extended by banks to individuals for non-farm entrepreneurial activity the GCC guidelines are being revised. The revised Scheme is at **Annex.**

3. You are further advised that any other Credit Card (e.g. Artisan Credit Card, LaghuUdyami Card, Swarojgar Credit Card, and Weaver's Card etc.) in existence and catering to the non-farm entrepreneurial credit needs of individuals should be included for reporting of credit extended through the General Credit Cards under the Financial Inclusion Plans (FIPs). As the GCC is intended to cover all entrepreneurial credit, consumption credit extended to individuals should not be reported under GCC.

4. The issuance of GCC does not preclude the banks from issuing any other credit card to their customers for their consumption needs. Consumption credit provided by banks is to be reported separately under the head of Overdraft (OD)/consumption credit in the FIP reporting format prescribed by Reserve Bank of India.

5. These guidelines will supersede the GCC guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India in December 2005 and May 2008. The revision has been done to ensure greater flow of entrepreneurial credit to individuals, particularly to borrowers of small means.

6. All banks are advised to implement the Revised General Credit Card Scheme with immediate effect under advice to us.

Yours faithfully

(Madhavi Sharma)
Chief General Manager
Encl: As above

1. Objectives

The objective is to increase flow of credit to individuals for entrepreneurial activity in the non-farm sector provided through the General Credit Card.

2. Eligibility

All non-farm entrepreneurial credit extended to individuals, which is eligible for classification under the priority sector guidelines.

3. Coverage

The scheme shall cover the entire country.

4. Nature of financial accommodation

Any credit facility extended under the Scheme would include both working capital and term loan requirements of entrepreneurs. The GCC, preferably, may be issued as a Smart card / Debit card (Biometric smart card compatible for use in the ATMs / Hand held Swipe Machines and capable of storing adequate information on entrepreneur's identity, assets and credit profile etc.). Wherever the accounts are not digitized, the GCC may be issued as a card/pass book or a credit card cum pass book incorporating the name, address, photograph of the holder, particulars of borrowing limit, validity period etc. for the time being which will serve both as an identity card as well as facilitate recording of the transactions on an ongoing basis.

5. Quantum of credit limit

There will be **no ceiling** on the loan amount as long as the loan is for the purpose of non-farm entrepreneurial activity and is otherwise eligible for classification as priority sector. The limits should be fixed on the basis of risk assessment on a case to case basis.

6. Security

Security norms will be applicable as per Reserve Bank guidelines on collateral free lending for micro and small units issued from time to time.

7. Rate of Interest

To be decided by banks in terms of their Board approved policies within the overall guidelines issued by Reserve Bank on interest rates from time to time.

ANNEXURE-V

INTEREST SUBSIDY CLAIMS UNDER NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOODS MISSION (NULM)

1. Name of the Bank:

Submission of Interest subsidy claims to lend @ 7% p.a. to SEP-I, SEP-G and SHGs under NULM for quarter ending (Figs in Rs):

We hereby apply for sanction and release of interest subsidy aggregating to Rs.....

(Rupees.....) covering Accounts in respect of financial assistance sanctioned to following constituent accounts numbers as per the details given below

A) SEP- I (Individual Enterprise)

No	Branch	Name of the borrower	Loan Account No	Loan Amount		Interest	
				Sanctioned	Disbursed	Charged	Subsidy Claimed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1							
2							
3							
	Total						

B) SEP- G (Group Enterprise)

No	Branch	Name of the Group	Loan Account No	Loan Amount		Interest	
				Sanctioned	Disbursed	Charged	Subsidy Claimed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1							
2							
3							
	Total						

C) Self Help Group (SHG Bank Linkage)

No	Branch	Name of the SHG	Loan Account No	Loan Amount		Interest	
				Sanctioned	Disbursed	Charged	Subsidy Claimed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1							
2							
3							
	Total						

Place: (Signature of the Authorised Officer of the Bank)

Date and Seal of the Bank

ANNEXURE-VI

Submission of claims for additional Interest Subvention to lend Women Self Help Groups (WSHG's) at 3% pa under NULM for the quarter ending:

Name of the Bank:

Statement for the quarterly claims: Loans disbursed/outstanding (Figs in Rs)

No	Branch	Name of the WSHG	Loan Account No	Loan Amount Disbursed	Amount of Interest subvention
1	2	3	4	5	6
1					
2					
3					
	Total				

We hereby certify that above loans were repaid on time and the benefit of additional interest subvention has been passed on to the WSHG's account, reducing effective rate of interest to 4% for the prompt payee WSHGs

Place

(Signature of the Authorised Officer of the Bank)

Date and Seal of the Bank