

December 07, 2023

RBI imposes monetary penalty on Rajarshi Shahu Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated November 16, 2023, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.00 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) on Rajarshi Shahu Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Maintenance of Deposit Accounts - Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

Background

The statutory inspection of the bank conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2022, and examination of the Inspection Report, Risk Assessment Report and all correspondence related thereto revealed, *inter alia*, that the bank had imposed fixed penal charges for shortfall in maintenance of minimum balance in savings bank accounts, instead of imposing penal charges proportionate to the extent of shortfall, and had also failed to notify its customers about the shortfall in minimum balance before levying charges. Consequently, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for failure to comply with the said directions, as stated therein.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI came to the conclusion that the charge of noncompliance with the aforesaid RBI directions was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty on the bank.

> (Yogesh Dayal) Chief General Manager

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