

November 21, 2024

RBI imposes monetary penalty on The Rajula Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Rajula, Dist. Amreli, Gujarat

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated November 13, 2024, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.25 lakh (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) on The Rajula Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Rajula, Dist. Amreli, Gujarat (the bank) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances to directors, relatives and firms/concerns in which they are Interested' and 'Maintenance of Deposit Accounts – Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI, conferred under the provisions of section 47A(1)(c) read with sections 46(4)(i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The statutory inspection of the bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2023. Based on supervisory findings of noncompliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions. After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI found, *inter alia*, that the following charges against the bank were sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty:

The bank had:

- i) sanctioned cash credit limits, wherein relatives of the bank's directors stood as guarantors; and
- ii) failed to classify certain accounts as inoperative / dormant where no customer induced transaction occurred for a period of over two years.

This action is based on 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. Further, imposition of this monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the bank.