# Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Update, 2020-21



## August, 2020

Outcome of the Second bi-monthly monetary policy was in line with market expectation. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the key policy reportate unchanged at 4%. The MPC decided to maintain the accommodative monetary policy stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth, while ensuring inflation remained within target.

#### **Key Outcome**

- The policy reporate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was unchanged at 4.00%
- Consequently, the reverse reporate under the LAF was also unchanged at 3.35%.

#### **Liquidity Measures:**

- National Housing Bank(NHB) to get Rs 5,000 crore to shield the housing sector from liquidity disruption, augment the flow of finance.
- Nabard to get Rs 5,000 crore for refinancing NBFC-MFIs and other smaller NBFCs of asset size of Rs.500 crore and less to support agriculture and allied activities and the rural non-farm sector.

#### Resolution Framework For Covid-19 Related Stress:

- Stressed MSME borrowers will be eligible for restructuring their debt under the existing framework provided their accounts were standard as of March 1, 2020.
- This restructuring will have to be implemented by March 31, 2021.
- To Provide a window under the June 7 framework to enable lenders to implement a resolution plan in respect of eligible corporate exposure without change of ownership and personal loans.
- To Constitute expert committee under KV Kamath on required financial parameters to be factored into resolution plan.

#### Other Key Measures:

- Loan to value for loans sanctioned by banks against pledge of gold for non-agri purposes increased to 90% from 75 %
- To put in incentive Framework for Banks in the flow of priority sector credit. Priority sector being given to lending to startups.

#### GDP & Inflation Outlook:

- The MPC expects headline inflation to remain elevated in Q2FY21
- MPC is of the view that Headline inflation likely to ease in H2FY21, aided by favourable base effect
- Real GDP Growth for full year of FY 2020-21 estimated to be in negative territory.

#### Conclusion

Outcome of the Second bi-monthly monetary policy announcement of 2020-2021 is a status quo with key announcements. RBI provided additional special liquidity facility of Nabard and the NHB to address some of the liquidity problems for NBFCs, MFIs and Housing sectors. And, to ease some stress on households in the wake up of the coronavirus pandemic, the cap on loans against gold has been enhanced from 75 per cent to 90 per cent of the value. Further, In view of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant stress in the system, the central bank also decided to allow lenders to provide a restructuring facility on some loans that were standard as on March 1, 2020. We believe measures announced by the RBI augur well for individual as well as for corporates directly impacted by Covid-19.



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