

FOREIGN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR (FII) INVESTMENT IN 'TO BE LISTED' DEBT SECURITIES

A.P. (DIR SERIES 2011-12) CIRCULAR NO. 89, DATED 1-3-2012

Attention of Authorised Dealer Category - I (AD Category-I) banks is invited to Regulation 5(4) and Schedule 5 of Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB dated May 3, 2000, *viz.*, Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) Regulations, 2000, as amended from time to time, in terms of which the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered FIIs are allowed to invest only in listed non-convertible debentures (NCDs)/bonds issued by an Indian company.

2. SEBI has, *vide* their circular IMD/FIIC/18/2010 dated November 26, 2010, issued instructions on the revised allocation of investment limits to FIIs. In terms of paragraph 8 of the circular, SEBI has allowed FIIs to invest in 'to be listed' debt securities. Accordingly, it has been decided that SEBI registered FIIs/sub-accounts of FIIs can now invest in primary issues of Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)/ bonds only if listing of such bonds/NCDs is committed to be done within 15 days of such investment. In case the NCDs/bonds issued to the SEBI registered FIIs/sub-accounts of FIIs are not listed within 15 days of issuance to the SEBI registered FIIs/sub-accounts of FIIs, for any reason, then the FII/sub-account of FII shall immediately dispose of these bonds/NCDs either by way of sale to a third party or to the issuer and the terms of offer to FIIs/sub-accounts should contain a clause that the issuer of such debt securities shall immediately redeem/buyback the said securities from the FIIs/sub-accounts of FIIs in such an eventuality.

3. Necessary amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000 notified *vide* Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB dated May 3, 2000 will be issued separately.

4. AD Category-I banks may bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents and customers concerned.

5. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions /approvals, if any, required under any other law.