

Dividend Distribution Policy of Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited

I Background

Pursuant to Regulation 43A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, which requires top five hundred listed entities based on market capitalization (calculated as on March 31 of every financial year) to formulate a dividend distribution policy which shall be disclosed in their annual reports and on their websites.

Since IRFC is shortlisted for listing, the dividend distribution policy has been formulated.

II Policy Framework

The policy has been framed broadly in line with the provisions of the Companies Act and also taking into consideration, guidelines on “Capital Restructuring of Central Public Sector Enterprises” issued by Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises, SEBI and other guidelines, to the extent applicable.

III Factors in consideration

IRFC has been consistently paying dividends and is committed to delivering sustainable value to all stakeholders. Dividend is declared at the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Company, based on the recommendations of the Board of Directors. It is at the discretion of the Board to recommend dividend. The Board may also declare interim dividend.

The decision regarding dividend pay-out is a crucial decision as it balances the amount of profit to be distributed among shareholders of the company with the requirement of deployment of internal accruals for its sustenance and growth plans. The factors generally considered before recommending/declaring dividend are as follows:

A. Circumstances under which the shareholders of the Company may or may not expect dividend

The factors that may generally be considered by the Board before making any recommendations for the dividend include, but are not limited to, future capital expenditure plans, profits earned during the financial year, cost of raising funds from alternate sources, cash flow position and applicable taxes including tax on dividend, subject to the guidelines as applicable from time to time, market rate of return, future prospects /market conditions etc.

B. Financial Parameters that shall be considered while declaring dividend

Being a Central Public Sector Enterprise, the Company endeavors to declare the dividend as per the guidelines on “Capital Restructuring of Central Public Sector Enterprises” issued by DIPAM, Govt. of India on 27.05.2016, mandating every CPSE to pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of PAT or 5% of the net-worth, whichever is higher subject to the maximum dividend permissible under the extant legal provisions.

Nonetheless, Company is expected to pay the maximum dividend permissible under the Act under which it has been set up, unless lower dividend proposed to be paid is justified on a case to case basis at the level of Ministry of Railways after considering the following financial parameters:

- (i) Debt Equity Ratio
- (ii) Net-worth and Capacity to borrow;
- (iii) Long-term borrowings; and
- (iv) Cash and bank balance.
- (v) Profit
- (vi) Tax
- (vii) Capital Adequacy Ratio

C. Internal and External factors that shall be considered for declaration of dividend

C.1 Internal Factors

C.1.1 Debt Equity Ratio

Being an NBFC, IRFC is required to maintain a Debt Equity at a certain level. Accordingly, the expected figure for Debt Equity is also taken into consideration while declaring dividend so that it does not breach the prescribed figure.

C.1.2 Net Worth of the Company

As per the extant guidelines issued by DIPAM, Govt. of India, every CPSE would pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of PAT or 5% of the net-worth, whichever is higher subject to the maximum dividend permissible under the extant legal provisions. Being a Government Company, IRFC is required to comply with these guidelines.

Apart from the above parameters, the Company may also consider various other internal factors, which inter alia include:

- Present & future requirements of the borrowings;
- Debt Equity Ratio;
- Capex Programme
- Any other factor as deemed fit by the Board.

C.2 External Factors

C.2.1 Economic Environment

In case of uncertain or recessionary economic and business conditions, the Company will endeavor to retain larger part of profits to build up reserves to sustain future updowns.

C.2.3 Statutory Provisions and Guidelines

The Company will adhere to the restraints imposed by Companies Act with regard to declaration of dividend. Further, being a Government Company, the Company shall also consider the guidelines in force in respect of dividend declaration as issued from time to time by the Govt. of India or by any other statutory bodies.

D. Utilization of Retained Earnings

The Company is engaged mainly into financing to the Railways and Railway entities. The retained earnings will be deployed in line with the objects of the company as detailed in the Memorandum of Association of the company, thus contributing to the growth of the business and operations of the Company.

E. Parameters to be adopted with regard to various classes of shares

The holders of the equity shares of the Company, as on the record date, are entitled to receive dividends. Since the Company has issued only one class of equity shares with equal voting rights, all the members of the Company are entitled to receive the same amount of dividend per share. The policy shall be suitably revisited at the time of issue of any new class of shares depending upon the nature and guidelines thereof.

Other provisions

In case of any subsequent changes in any Statutory Act, Rules, Regulations etc. which makes any of the provisions in this policy inconsistent with them, then the provisions of the Statutory Act, Rules, Regulations etc. would prevail over the policy.

Managing Director is authorized to approve any minor modifications/ deviations to the policy and will be the competent authority for any interpretation regarding the policy.