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**12. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT**

12.1 The owner may terminate the contract at any stage of the construction for reasons to be recorded in the letter of termination.

12.2 The Owner inter alia may terminate the Contract for any or all of the following reasons that the contractor

- a) has abandoned the work/Contract.
- b) has failed to commence the works, or has without any lawful excuse under these conditions suspended the work for 15 consecutive days.
- c) has failed to remove materials from the site or to pull down and replace the work within 15 days after receiving from the Engineer written notice that the said materials or work were condemned and/or rejected by the Engineer under specified conditions.
- d) has neglected or failed to observe and perform all or any of the terms acts, matters or things under this Contract to be observed and performed by the Contractor.
- e) has to the detriment of good workmanship or in defiance of the Engineer's instructions to the contrary sub-let any part of the Contract.
- f) has acted in any manner to the detrimental interest, reputation, dignity, name or prestige of the Owner.
- g) has stopped attending to work without any prior notice and prior permission for a period of 15 days.
- h) has become untraceable.
- i) has without authority acted in violation of the terms and conditions of this contract and has committed breach of terms of the contract in best judgement of the owner.
- j) has been declared insolvent/bankrupt.
- k) in the event of sudden death of the Contractor.

12.3 The owner on termination of such contract shall have the right to appropriate the Security Deposit, Retention Money and invoke the Bank Guarantee furnished by the contractor and to appropriate the same towards the amounts due and payable by the contractor as per the conditions of Contract and return to the contractor excess money, if any, left over.

12.4 In case of Termination of the contract, Owner shall have the right to carry out the unexecuted portion of the work either by themselves or through any other contractor(s) at the risk and cost of the Contractor. In view of paucity of time, Owner shall have the right to place such unexecuted portion of the work on any nominated contractor(s). However, the overall liability of the Contractor shall be restricted to 100 % of the total contract value.

® 12.5 The contractor within or at the time fixed by the Owner shall depute his authorised representative for taking joint final measurements of the works executed thus far and submit the final bill for the work as per joint final measurement within 15 days of the date of joint final measurement. If the contractor fails to depute their representative for joint measurement, the owner shall take the measurement with their Engineer-in-Charge/Site-in-Charge or any other outside representatives. Such a measurement **shall be final and binding on the Parties and shall not be questioned by the Contractor and no dispute can be raised by the Contractor on the same.**

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- 12.6 The Owner may enter upon and take possession of the works and all plant, tools, scaffoldings, sheds, machinery, power operated tools and steel, cement and other materials of the Contract at the site or around the site and use or employ the same for completion of the work or employ any other contractor or other person or persons to complete the works. The Contractor shall not in any way object or interrupt or do any act, matter or thing to prevent or hinder such actions, other Contractor or other persons employed for completing and finishing or using the materials and plant for the works. When the works shall be completed or as soon thereafter the Engineer shall give a notice in writing to the Contractor to remove surplus materials and plant, if any, and belonging to the Contractor except as provided elsewhere in the Contract and should the Contractor fail to do so within a period of 15 days after receipt thereof the Owner may sell the same by public auction and shall give credit to the contractor for the amount realised. The Owner shall thereafter ascertain and certify in writing under his hand what (if anything) shall be due or payable to or by the Owner for the value of the plant and materials so taken possession and the expense or loss which the Owner shall have been put to in procuring the works, to be so completed, and the amount if any, owing to the Contractor and the amount which shall be so certified shall thereupon be paid by the Owner to the Contractor or by the Contractor to the Owner, as the case may, and the Certificate of the Owner shall be final and conclusive between the parties.
- 12.7 When the contract is terminated by the Owner for all or any of the reasons mentioned above the Contractor shall not have any right to claim compensation on account of such termination.

® **13. FORCE MAJEURE**

**Circumstances leading to force majeure**

- (a) **act of terrorism;**
- (b) **riot, war, invasion, act of foreign enemies, hostilities (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection of military or usurped power;**
- (c) **ionising radiation or contamination, radio activity from any nuclear fuel or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel, radioactive toxic explosive or other hazardous properties of any explosive assembly or nuclear component;**
- (d) **epidemics, earthquakes, flood, fire, hurricanes, typhoons or other physical natural disaster, but excluding weather conditions regardless of severity; and**
- (e) **freight embargoes, strikes at national or state-wide level or industrial disputes at a national or state-wide level in any country where Works are performed, and which affect an essential portion of the Works but excluding any industrial dispute which is specific to the performance of the Works or the Contract.**

**For the avoidance of doubt, inclement weather, third party breach, delay in supply of materials (other than due to a nationwide transporters' strike) or commercial hardship shall not constitute a Force Majeure event.**

- **Notification of Force Majeure**

Contractor shall notify within [10(ten)] days of becoming aware of or the date it ought to have become aware of the occurrence of an event of Force Majeure giving full particulars of the event of Force Majeure and the reasons for the event of Force Majeure preventing the Affected Party from, or delaying the Affected Party in performing its obligations under the Contract.

- **Right of either party to terminate**

If an event of Force Majeure occurs and its effect continues for a period of 180 (one hundred eighty days) or more in a continuous period of 365 (three hundred sixty-five) days after notice has been given under this clause, either Party may terminate the Contract by issuing a written notice of 30 (thirty) days to the other Party.

- **Payment in case of termination due to Force Majeure**

The Contract Price attributable to the Works performed as at the date of the commencement of the relevant event of Force Majeure.

The Contractor has no entitlement and Owner has no liability for:

- a) any costs, losses, expenses, damages or the payment of any part of the Contract Price during an event of Force Majeure; and
- b) any delay costs in any way incurred by the Contractor due to an event of Force Majeure.

Time extension for such cases will be worked out appropriately.

#### **14. ARBITRATION**

- 14.1 All disputes and differences of whatsoever nature, whether existing or which shall at any time arise between the parties hereto touching or concerning the agreement, meaning, operation or effect thereof or to the rights and liabilities of the parties or arising out of or in relation thereto whether during or after completion of the contract or whether before after determination, foreclosure, termination or breach of the agreement (other than those in respect of which the decision of any person is, by the contract, expressed to be final and binding) shall, after written notice by either party to the agreement to the other of them and to the Appointing Authority hereinafter mentioned, be referred for adjudication to the Sole Arbitrator to be appointed as hereinafter provided.
- 14.2 The appointing authority shall either himself act as the Sole Arbitrator or nominate some officer/retired officer of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (referred to as owner or HPCL) or a retired officer of any other Government Company in the Oil Sector of the rank of Ch. Manager & above or any retired officer of the Central Government not below the rank of a Director, to act as the Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate the disputes and differences between the parties. The contractor/vendor shall not be entitled to raise any objection to the appointment of such person as the Sole Arbitrator on the ground that the said person is/was an officer and/or shareholder of the owner, another Govt. Company or the Central Government or that he/she has to deal or had dealt with the matter to which the contract

relates or that in the course of his/her duties, he/she has/had expressed views on all or any of the matters in dispute or difference.

- 14.3 In the event of the Arbitrator to whom the matter is referred to, does not accept the appointment, or is unable or unwilling to act or resigns or vacates his office for any reasons whatsoever, the Appointing Authority aforesaid, shall nominate another person as aforesaid, to act as the Sole Arbitrator.
- 14.4 Such another person nominated as the Sole Arbitrator shall be entitled to proceed with the arbitration from the stage at which it was left by his predecessor. It is expressly agreed between the parties that no person other than the Appointing Authority or a person nominated by the Appointing Authority as aforesaid, shall act as an Arbitrator. The failure on the part of the Appointing Authority to make an appointment on time shall only give rise to a right to a Contractor to get such an appointment made and not to have any other person appointed as the Sole Arbitrator.
- 14.5 The Award of the Sole Arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties to the Agreement.
- 14.6 The work under the Contract shall, however, continue during the Arbitration proceedings and no payment due or payable to the concerned party shall be withheld (except to the extent disputed) on account of initiation, commencement or pendency of such proceedings.
- 14.7 The Arbitrator may give a composite or separate Award(s) in respect of each dispute or difference referred to him and may also make interim award(s) if necessary.
- 14.8 The fees of the Arbitrator and expenses of arbitration, if any, shall be borne equally by the parties unless the Sole Arbitrator otherwise directs in his award with reasons. The lumpsum fees of the Arbitrator shall be ₹ 40,000/- per case for transportation contracts and ₹ 60,000/- for engineering contracts and if the sole Arbitrator completes the arbitration including his award within 5 months of accepting his appointment, he shall be paid ₹ 10,000/- additionally as bonus. Reasonable actual expenses for stenographer, etc. will be reimbursed. Fees shall be paid stage wise i.e. 25% on acceptance, 25% on completion of pleadings/documentation, 25% on completion of arguments and balance on receipt of award by the parties
- 14.9 Subject to the aforesaid, the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and the rules made thereunder, shall apply to the Arbitration proceedings under this Clause.
- 14.10 The Contract shall be governed by and constructed according to the laws in force in India. The parties hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts situated at "location given in tender header" (say Mumbai\*) for all purposes. The Arbitration shall be held at "location mentioned for such purpose in Tender header" (say Mumbai\*) and conducted in English language.
- 14.11 The Appointing Authority is the Functional Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.

(Note:- \* = While printing the GTCs, each Procurement Authorities at various location, may mention the correct place before printing the GTC and not leave Clause 14.10 blank or as stated above. Bracketed portion is to be removed.

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**14A CONCILIATION**

The Parties to the contract may seek to resolve all their disputes and differences amicably by Conciliation in accordance with the Conciliation Rules of HPCL (as in force and may be amended from time to time), provided however that the disputes/ differences amount to a claim in excess of Rs. One Crore. If however the disputes or differences are not resolved by conciliation, the Parties shall be free to approach a Court of competent jurisdiction. (The HPCL Conciliation Rules are attached).

**15. GENERAL**

- 15.1. Materials required for the works whether brought by the or supplied by the Owner shall be stored by the contractor only at places approved by Engineer-in-Charge/Site-in-Charge. Storage and safe custody of the material shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- 15.2. Owner and/or Engineer-in-Charge/Site-in-Charge connected with the contract, shall be entitled at any time to inspect and examine any materials intended to be used in or on the works, either on the site or at factory or workshop or at other place(s) manufactured or at any places where these are laying or from which these are being obtained and the contractor shall give facilities as may be required for such inspection and examination.
- 15.3. In case of any class of work for which there is no such specification supplied by the owner as is mentioned in the tender documents, such work shall be carried out in accordance with Indian Standard Specifications and if the Indian Standard Specifications do not cover the same the work should be carried out as per standard Engineering practice subject to the approval of the Engineer-in-Charge/Site-in-Charge.
- 15.4. Should the work be suspended by reason of rain, strike, lockouts or other cause the contractor shall take all precautions necessary for the protection of the work and at his own expense shall make good any damages arising from any of these causes.
- 15.5. The contractor shall cover up and protect from injury from any cause all new work also for supplying all temporary doors, protection to windows and any other requisite protection for the whole of the works executed whether by himself or special tradesmen or sub- contractors and any damage caused must be made good by the contractors at his own expense.
- 15.6. If the contractor has quoted the items under the deemed exports, then it will be the responsibility of the contractor to get all the benefits under deemed exports from the Government. The Owner's responsibility shall only be limited to the issuance of required certificates. The quotation will be unconditional and phrases like "subject to availability of deemed exports benefit" etc. will not find place in it.
16. Integrity Pact : Effective 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2007, all tenders and contracts shall comply with the requirements of the Integrity Pact (IP) if the value of such tenders or contracts is ₹ 1 crore & above. Failure to sign the Integrity Pact shall lead to outright rejection of bid.
17. Grievances of parties participating or intend to participate in the tender shall be addressed in writing to the officer designate of the Grievance Redressal Cell where the tenders have to be submitted within the stipulated period. Detailed mechanism of Grievance Redressal is available on the HPCL website
18. The guidelines for Holiday Listing as adopted and available on HPCL website shall be applicable to all tenders floated and all Purchase Orders/Contracts placed by HPCL.

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**ANNEXURE –5a****5a. CONCILIATION CLAUSE**

The parties to the contract may seek to resolve all their disputes and differences amicably by conciliation in accordance with the Conciliation Rules of HPCL ( as in force and may be amended from time to time ) , provided however that the disputes(s)/ difference(s) amount to a claim is in excess of Rs. One Crore. If however the disputes or differences are not resolved by Conciliation, the Parties shall be free to approach a Court of competent jurisdiction. (The HPCL Conciliation Rules are attached)

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## HPCL CONCILIATION RULES, 2019

### **Background**

Part III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 makes provisions for alternative dispute resolution through Conciliation, which is emerging as an effective dispute resolution mechanism for Public Sector Enterprises in India.

HPCL intends to increasingly focus on Conciliation as a dispute resolution mechanism and hereby frames the present Rules in conformity with Part III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 for speedier, cost-effective and amicable settlement of disputes through Conciliation.

### **1. Title and Commencement**

- a. These Rules shall be called the HPCL Conciliation Rules, 2019.
- b. It shall come into force on 16 March 2020.

### **2. Definitions**

- a) “Act” means Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 as amended from time to time.
- b) “Conciliation” means a dispute resolution process whereby the Parties by mutual consent appoint a Conciliator or a Settlement Advisory Committee (SAC) to assist them in their attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute(s) arising out of a defined legal relationship, contractual or otherwise.
- c) “Conciliator(s)” means the Conciliator appointed in accordance with these Rules.
- d) “HPCL” means HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED, having its registered office at 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020.
- e) “Panel of Conciliators” means the list of eligible persons selected by HPCL to act as Conciliators in conciliation proceedings under these Rules.
- f) “Party” means a Party to a contract with HPCL or a Party to a Conciliation proceeding under these Rules. Further, “Party” means HPCL or the other party to the Conciliation proceeding individually, and “Parties means both of them collectively.
- g) “Rules” means the HPCL Conciliation Rules, 2019 (as amended from time to time).
- h) “Settlement Advisory Committee” or “SAC” means the Committee of Conciliators appointed under Rule 5 of these Rules.
- i) “Settlement Agreement” means the agreement arrived between the Parties in settlement of their dispute(s), which is the subject matter of Conciliation.
- j) “Working Day” means any of the five days between Monday to Friday, including both Monday and Friday, between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM (Indian Standard Time), excluding Gazetted holidays and all other holidays declared by the Govt. of India or HPCL.
- k) The masculine gender shall include female and neutral genders and vice-versa. The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa.

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**3. Scope and Applicability**

- a) These Rules shall apply to any dispute, arising out of or relating to a contractual or defined legal relationship in the form of a contract involving HPCL as a Party, and which involves construction, works, engineering, EPC or Supply or any other contract of a similar nature, where the Parties seeking an amicable settlement of their disputes have agreed that these Rules shall apply. These Rules shall, however, not apply to disputes arising out of or relating to MS/HSD/LPG/SKO/Lube Dealership/Distributorship Agreements and Agreements for Bulk or Packed Road Transportation of Petroleum Products. If the dispute is not settled by Conciliation within 8 (eight) months of the initiation of conciliation or such further period as the parties shall agree in writing, the Conciliation proceedings shall terminate and the Parties shall be free to approach a Court of law.

Provided that these Rules shall be applicable only if:

- i) the dispute arose out of a contract, agreement or other defined legal relationship that has been successfully completed or is ongoing. No dispute arising out of a contract, agreement or other defined legal relationship that has been abandoned by either of the Parties would be covered under these Rules.
  - ii) the date of request for the conciliation is made during the Contract or within 6 months after the Contractual Delivery Date/ Contractual Completion Date or the extended CDD/CCD.
  - iii) the dispute involves claims of an amount not less than ₹ One Crore.
- b) The scope of Conciliation under these Rules shall encompass both domestic and international disputes of a private law nature, whenever/wherever a settlement is possible.
- c) Pendency of judicial or similar proceedings shall not constitute any bar on commencement of Conciliation proceedings under these Rules, even if the proceedings under these Rules are on the same subject matter/issue.
- d) During the pendency of the Conciliation proceedings, the Parties shall not initiate any judicial or similar proceedings in respect of the dispute which is the subject matter of Conciliation, and if any such proceedings have been initiated prior to the commencement of the Conciliation proceedings, the Parties shall maintain status quo in respect thereof as long as the Conciliation proceedings are pending.
- e) These Rules shall however not apply to dispute(s)/ claims which are barred by limitation, or which, by virtue of any law for the time being in force in India, may not be submitted to a Court or Conciliation.
- f) These Rules shall be subordinate to and supplementary to Part-III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and the Act will prevail over the Rules to the extent of inconsistency, if any.

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- g) These Rules are broad standard Conciliation procedures meant for a flexible, systematic, expeditious and amicable settlement of disputes and Parties may mutually agree in writing to make appropriate adjustments/ changes, and such mutually agreed departures/ deviations from any of these Rules shall not in any circumstances render a Conciliation proceeding or any Settlement Agreement reached pursuant thereto invalid, illegal or void.
- h) Subject to subsequent agreement between the Parties, Conciliation under these Rules may be invoked, even if Conciliation is not the prescribed dispute settlement mechanism or these Rules are not the prescribed Conciliation Rules under the relevant contract/agreement.
- i) Raising of any issue or point of dispute, by any Party in writing or otherwise in any communication (electronic or otherwise) between the Parties (without its resolution) shall not be considered as seeking Conciliation under these Rules, unless such Conciliation proceedings are formally invoked in writing under these Rules by a Party, stating clearly the subject matter in dispute/ difference and seeking the consent of the other Party(ies) for Conciliation. Every Conciliation shall commence only if the other Party(ies) accept(s) in writing its willingness to enter into Conciliation.

#### 4. Panel of Conciliators

- a) HPCL shall, with the approval of Director (HR) of HPCL, prepare and maintain a Panel of Conciliators, consisting of persons having good standing in the field of Oil and Gas, Refineries, Marketing of Petroleum Products, Engineering and Projects, Law or Justice within sixty (60) days of these Rules coming into force. The Panel will be updated from time to time as required. The Director (HR) of HPCL may add any name to or delete any name from the Panel of Conciliators.
- b) The Conciliators in the Panel of Conciliators, shall be independent persons, who are not serving employees, or consultants or advisers of HPCL.
- c) Persons who have attained the age of 70 years will automatically cease to be on the Panel of Conciliators. In case where a Conciliator has been appointed and during the pendency of conciliation proceedings, he/she attains the age of 70 years, he/she will continue to be a conciliator till completion of the conciliation proceedings, whether by means of a Settlement or Termination of the Conciliation Proceedings or otherwise as provided under the Act.
- d) All the members of the Panel shall have equal status and parties will not have any right to challenge the appointment of a Conciliator on the ground that its nominee Conciliator has higher status than the other Conciliator.

e) The following persons may be enlisted in the panel of Conciliators:-

- i. Retired Chairman & Managing Director, Retired Functional Directors of any Central Public Sector Enterprise in India.
- ii. Independent experts in the field of Oil and Gas, Construction or Engineering and Projects (a) having minimum 25 years' experience; (b) being preferably registered with an institute of arbitration in India and (c) having experience of handled at least one or more arbitration or conciliation.
- iii. Retired Judges of the Supreme Court of India & High Courts in India.
- iv. Retired PSU employees of and above the level of Chief General manager of a Schedule 'A' PSU in India.
- v. Legal practitioners/ Advocates having minimum experience of (a) 25 years post enrollment (in case of practicing advocates) in High Courts/ Supreme Court or (b) 25 years post qualification (in case of in house counsel).

f) The Panel of Conciliators shall contain an Annexure, giving details of the qualifications of the Conciliators, including professional and technical experience.

g) A person shall be empaneled as a Conciliator only after obtaining his consent to be so empaneled.

h) A person in the Panel of Conciliators shall not be entitled to any monetary benefit or remuneration/fees or any other facility only by virtue of his/her name being in the Panel of Conciliators. He will be entitled for fees, etc. only when he/she is actually appointed as a Conciliator or forming a part of a SAC in relation to a specific dispute under these Rules. An appointment on the Panel of Conciliators under sub-rule (a) shall ordinarily be for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of appointment. Such period may be extended or curtailed at the discretion of HPCL.

i) Removal of a person from the Panel of Conciliators shall not have the automatic effect of removal/withdrawal of the said person from an existing Conciliation Proceeding in which such person is acting as a Conciliator, unless the said Conciliator is removed specifically from the dispute in question.

j) Disqualifications of persons as Conciliators and/ or removal:

The following persons shall be deemed to be disqualified for being empaneled as Conciliators, and if already empaneled/ appointed, shall be liable to be removed:

- 1) A person who has been adjudged as insolvent or is of unsound mind or physically incapable of performing the work of a Conciliator.

- 2) A person against whom criminal charges are framed by a criminal court and are pending for final disposal or, who has been convicted by a criminal court/ Tribunal for any offence and a sentence of fine or imprisonment has been passed against him. (This will not include fines for petty cases like traffic violation or penalties given purely because the person held a particular office {like an occupier in a factory} provided he has no personal involvement in the same).
  - 3) A person against whom disciplinary proceedings have been initiated by the appropriate disciplinary authority and are pending or, has resulted in a punishment.
  - 4) A person against whom an adverse report/ remark is received from the Vigilance Department of HPCL or the CVC or CBI or the Government of India, which lends doubts as to the integrity of the person or otherwise makes him unsuitable to hold the position.
- k) Provided always that HPCL may, in its sole discretion, change the eligibility criteria or modify/ rescind any portion or the whole of these Rules or not include any person as a Conciliator in its Panel, without assigning any reasons and such decision shall not be called in question by any person/ party.

#### **5. Composition of the Conciliation Tribunal**

- a) Conciliator(s) shall be appointed by the mutual consent of the Parties from the Panel of Conciliators maintained by HPCL in respect of a particular dispute. There shall be a Sole Conciliator in Conciliation proceedings where the disputed claim (or all claims put together) is less than ₹ 5,00,00,000 (Rupees Five Crores). However, where the disputed claims are more than ₹ 5,00,00,000 (Rupees Five Crores), the Conciliation Tribunal shall consist of two Conciliators. In case of 2 Conciliators, each Party to the Dispute shall appoint one Conciliator each from the Panel maintained by HPCL.
- b) In case the Parties fail to agree on a Conciliator(s) from the Panel of Conciliators maintained by HPCL, the Parties shall be at liberty to mutually agree to appoint any other Conciliator(s), who is/are not in the Panel of Conciliators maintained by HPCL.
- c) The Conciliator(s), as and when appointed by the Parties for a specific Conciliation proceeding, shall constitute and function by the name and style of “Settlement Advisory Committee” or “SAC” in regard to the dispute(s) referred for Conciliation and shall conduct Conciliation proceedings under these Rules. The SAC can be of a sole conciliator or of 2 conciliators.
- d) When a person is approached in connection with his possible appointment as a Conciliator in respect of a specific dispute, he shall disclose any circumstances likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to his impartiality or independence. A Conciliator, from the time of his appointment and throughout the Conciliation proceedings shall, without any delay, disclose any such circumstances to the Parties, unless they have already been informed of such circumstances. Such person shall not act or continue to act as a Conciliator if either Party objects to his so

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acting or continuing to act due to the existence of such circumstances. Such circumstances shall include:

- An interest in or connection with the subject matter of the dispute,
  - A relationship with a party, including a relationship of lawyer and client.
- e) On the appointment of a Conciliator in respect of a specific dispute, the Conciliator shall give a Declaration as per **Schedule-A** of these Rules.
- f) If a Conciliator withdraws himself or he/she is removed by the Parties from a Conciliation Proceeding on the ground of continued absence for any three scheduled meetings/hearings or is otherwise unavailable for the Conciliation proceeding for no justifiable reason(s) or does not hold conciliation proceedings or cannot act further because of the objection of a party under sub-rule d) above or any reason which disqualifies him, the parties may appoint an alternative Conciliator in the same manner as contemplated herein.
- g) The appointment will take effect from the date of such intimation about the constitution of the Conciliation Tribunal.
- h) If any appointed Conciliator resigns or dies or is unable to perform his functions during the Conciliation, then HPCL may terminate the appointment of such Conciliator and inform him and the parties accordingly. The Parties shall take further steps to fill up the vacancy so caused as per 5(a) above.
- i) No person shall be appointed as a Conciliator in respect of more than three disputes at a time.

## 6. Commencement of Conciliation

- a) HPCL or the Party who has entered into a contract of the nature stated in 3(a) above with HPCL, and who wishes to settle any dispute, shall serve a written notice/invitation for Conciliation Proceedings under these Rules, to the other Party. This will be done only after the normal official avenues of resolving disputes under any contract or existing practice are exhausted.
- b) A written notice/invitation for Conciliation proceedings shall, inter alia, contain the following details:
- i. Identity of the Party giving the written notice/invitation - name, official address, email address, contact number(s), official representative, etc.
  - ii. Specific consent of the party for Conciliation under these Rules.
  - iii. Name of proposed Conciliator(s) from the Panel of Conciliators maintained HPCL.
  - iv. Details of the contract, a brief description of the dispute which is sought to be settled through Conciliation, details of the amounts claimed and the total amount claimed.
  - v. A statement that there are no other issues or disputes.

- vi. Where a No Claims/Dues Certificate has been issued to HPCL, a statement that the claims are pertaining only to those items which have been specifically excepted and mentioned as exceptions in the said No Claims/Dues Certificate.
- vii. An undertaking that:
- No interest shall be claimed in any judicial or similar proceedings or during conciliation, for the period commencing from the date of written notice/invitation for Conciliation, upto the completion/ conclusion of the Conciliation by a Settlement Agreement or Termination or otherwise in terms of these Rules.
  - Not to initiate any judicial or similar proceedings in respect of the dispute mentioned in the written notice/invitation for Conciliation during the pendency of the Conciliation proceedings and, if any such proceedings have been initiated prior to the written notice/invitation for Conciliation, that the party agrees to maintain status quo in respect thereto during the pendency of the Conciliation proceedings.
- c) The Party receiving the written notice/invitation for Conciliation may, within 30 (thirty) days of receipt of the notice/invitation, accept the invitation for Conciliation wholly, or may accept the invitation only in respect of some claims mentioned in the written notice/ invitation and not in respect of the rest of the claims, or on the condition that its dispute/ claim(s) with the other party may also be settled through Conciliation under these Rules. Such limited or conditional acceptance shall constitute a counter-invitation for Conciliation. In case of a counter-invitation, the first Party shall within 15 (fifteen) days of receipt of the counter-invitation give its reply as afore-stated. The Party accepting the invitation for Conciliation or giving the counter-invitation for Conciliation, as the case may be, shall also comply with the requirements of sub-rule (b) above, to the extent applicable.
- d) If no reply under sub-rule (c) is received from the other Party, on whom written notice/invitation/counter invitation for Conciliation under sub-rule (a) or sub rule (c) has been served, the invitation/counter invitation for Conciliation may be treated as ‘rejected’.
- e) Conciliation proceedings under these Rules shall be deemed to commence on the day the party giving the invitation/counter-invitation for Conciliation receives a written intimation of acceptance of such invitation/counter invitation from the other party (Commencement). For Conciliation proceedings with more than two Parties, such proceedings shall be deemed to commence on the day the last intimation of acceptance of invitation/counter-invitation for Conciliation is received from a Party.
- f) If the Parties fail to agree on appointment of Conciliator(s) and constitution of SAC within 60 (sixty) days of the Commencement of the Conciliation proceedings as per sub rule (e) above or such extended time period as agreed between/amongst the Parties, whichever is longer, the efforts of dispute settlement through Conciliation shall be treated as ‘failed’.

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**7. Conciliation Proceedings**

- a) Upon his appointment, the conciliator may request each party to submit to him a brief statement in writing describing the general nature of the dispute, the points at issue and the amount, if any, of the claim(s) and counter claim(s). Each party shall send a copy of such statement to the other party. At any stage of the conciliation proceedings the conciliator may request a party to submit to him such additional information as he deems appropriate.
- b) The SAC may, if it considers necessary, permit or request the Parties to submit further written statement(s) along with other documents/evidence in support thereof.
- c) The first meeting of the Parties shall be called by the SAC, after consulting the Parties involved, at a convenient date and time, within 10 (ten) working days of receipt of written statement mentioned in the preceding sub-rule (a) and sub-rule (b). During the first meeting, a tentative time-frame and broad work-schedule of the Conciliation proceedings shall be finalized by the SAC after due consultation with and consent of the Parties.
- d) The SAC shall, as much as possible, proceed with the Conciliation proceeding on an issue by issue basis, after proper identification of the relevant issues with the consent of the Parties.
- e) The SAC, with the consent of the Parties, may also call for material witness(es) to assist the Committee.
- f) Each Party shall send a copy of its communication, written submission and all other document(s) filed before the SAC to the other Party.
- g) Opportunity shall be given to the Parties during the Conciliation proceedings to openly and fearlessly express their views so as to enable the Parties to better understand and appreciate each other's viewpoints.
- h) It shall be open to the Parties or the Conciliator(s) to make any proposal or counter proposal for amicable settlement of the dispute at any time during the Conciliation proceeding. The SAC may also make such proposal after consulting and hearing the Parties.
- i) All the parties shall commit to participate in the proceedings in good faith with the intention to settle the dispute(s), if possible.

**8. Representation, venue and other broad principles**

- a) Advocates shall not be allowed to participate in the Conciliation Proceedings under these Rules and Parties shall plead their own cases.
- b) Parties shall, however be free to appoint their employees, officers, directors or in-house Law Officers to plead their own cases.

- c) Unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, Conciliation proceedings under these Rules may be held at the registered office of HPCL at 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020 or any other office of HPCL.
- d) Unless the parties have agreed upon the place where meetings with the conciliator are to be held, such place shall be determined by the conciliator, be convenient to both parties and take into consideration the circumstances of the conciliation proceedings.
- e) Equal opportunities shall be given to the Parties to express their views before the SAC and the SAC shall make utmost efforts to ensure that the Conciliation proceedings are conducted in a friendly and conducive manner.
- f) Representation of the Parties may be oral or in writing. Only if both Parties agree to in writing, then minutes of the meetings/hearings may be recorded in broad general terms, without however, recording adversarial submissions/ claims or stand of either party on the same, if any. Copies of such minutes of meetings shall be sent to the Parties within 7 (seven) working days of each meeting/hearing. No such minutes shall constitute any evidence as to the stand of either party and shall not be used in evidence before any Court of law. If Minutes are not agreed by either Party it shall not be made or issued. Only a record of Attendance of a meeting/ Attendance Sheet shall be made in such cases.
- g) Best efforts shall be made to ensure that Conciliation proceedings are conducted in a time-bound manner without, however, diluting procedural flexibility of such proceedings.
- h) The language of the Conciliation proceedings under these Rules shall be English.

#### **9. Role of Settlement Advisory Committee/ Conciliators**

- a) The Settlement Advisory Committee shall attempt to facilitate resolution of the dispute(s) by the Parties, and communicate the view of each party to the other, assist them in identifying issues, reduce misunderstandings, clarify priorities, explore areas of compromise and generate options in an attempt to resolve the dispute(s), emphasizing on the benefits of settlement.
- b) The SAC shall encourage the Parties to meet and discuss amongst themselves for an amicable settlement of the dispute(s) referred.
- c) The SAC shall be guided by the principles of objectivity, fairness and justice and shall assist the Parties in an independent and impartial manner to reach an amicable settlement of dispute(s).
- d) The SAC shall conduct Conciliation proceedings in conformity with these Rules and Part-III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to the maximum extent possible, but shall be flexible with appropriate adjustments, whenever required or whenever the Parties make joint request.



- e) The broad approach of the SAC shall be speedy, efficient and amicable `settlement of disputes, without however diluting objectivity of approach, principles of natural justice and established principles of law.
- f) The SAC shall act more as facilitators, rather than as judges/umpires/arbitrators and shall not impose any view or terms of settlement on any of the Parties.
- g) The SAC may suggest to either of the Parties or both of them, the possible terms of a settlement for their consideration. If such possible terms of a settlement are given, then both parties shall comment on the same and after considering the comments, the SAC may offer a revised terms of settlement for consideration.
- h) Unless it is signed by both the Parties to the Dispute/ Conciliation, no “terms of settlement” which are proposed or commented upon, shall be binding upon either Party or held against it.

#### **10. Time Frame**

- a) The SAC shall attempt to dispose of the entire Conciliation proceedings within a time frame of 6 (six) months from the date of constitution of the SAC, but the same may be extended with the mutual consent of the Parties, for a period not exceeding 2 (two) months.
- b) Notwithstanding sub rule (a), a Settlement Agreement signed after the 8 (eight) months period stipulated in sub-rule (a) shall not become void or unenforceable merely because such agreement has been signed after the stipulated 8 (eight) months period.
- c) Notwithstanding sub rule (a), the SAC may terminate the Conciliation proceedings any time before the expiration of the 6 (six) months stipulated in sub-rule (a) if it is of the view that because of the vastly divergent, extreme and/or rigid views of the Parties or non-cooperation/ response of any one party or both parties or for any other substantial reason it is no longer possible or practicable to meaningfully conduct the Conciliation proceedings.
- d) The total number of meetings of the SAC/ hearings in a Conciliation proceeding shall not be more than 6 (Six), unless otherwise agreed between the parties in consultation with the SAC.

#### **11. Conciliator's fee**

- a) Each Conciliator constituting the SAC shall be entitled to the following fees:-
  - i. a fee of ₹ 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand only) for each hearing/meeting.
  - ii. a lump sum reading fee of ₹ 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand only).
  - iii. a lump sum facilitation fee of ₹ 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand only) if a draft Settlement Agreement is prepared by the SAC.
- b) Provided that the total fees payable shall not exceed a maximum of ₹ 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lacs only) per Conciliator per dispute (case referred for Conciliation) excluding service tax. This is unless otherwise agreed to in writing by both the Parties.

- c) In addition to the fees and expenses stated in sub-rule (a) above, the SAC shall be entitled to incur for themselves secretarial services at a lump sum amount of ₹25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only). The SAC/ Conciliators will make its own arrangements for secretarial services. The SAC/ Conciliators shall make their own local travel arrangements.
- d) If the Conciliation Proceedings are held at a place other than the location/ residence of the Conciliator (outstation visit), then each such Conciliator shall also be entitled for reimbursement of (i) actual rail/ air travel expenses, (ii) expenses for suitable Hotel Accommodation, (iii) meals and local travel on actual basis. The accommodation to the Conciliator(s) shall be provided at the guest houses of HPCL, where available.
- e) In all cases the fees and expenses of conciliation mentioned above shall be borne equally by the Parties. Further, the Parties shall pay and bear their respective share of the fees and expenses within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first meeting/ hearing, to the Conciliators as directed by the SAC or to such an account as may be designated by them. The process and payment stage can be agreed and varied by the consent of the Parties and the Conciliator(s).
- f) Final account towards fees, payment for secretarial services and other expenses of the Conciliation proceedings shall be reconciled and settled between the Parties and the SAC on the termination of the Conciliation proceedings. In case of signing of a Settlement Agreement, the fees and expenses as determined by the SAC as per these Rules shall be paid by the Parties within 30 (thirty) days of the signing the Settlement Agreement.
- g) In the event where the dispute does not involve any monetary claim or disputed amount cannot be quantified, then the Conciliator's fees will be a consolidated sum of Rs.3.00 lakhs inclusive of fees for hearing, study, facilitation, etc. Secretarial charges will be extra as per the above provisions.

## **12. Non-disclosure of Information**

When a Party to a Conciliation proceeding provides any information concerning any issue of dispute to the SAC subject to a specific condition that such an information is to be treated confidential, the SAC shall not disclose that information to the other Party.

## **13. Co-operation of Parties**

- a) The Parties shall, in good faith co-operate with the SAC and in particular will endeavor to comply with any request of the SAC to submit written materials, provide evidence, give clarification, attend meetings/hearings, etc.
- b) Conciliation being an amicable dispute settlement mechanism, the Parties shall not take adversarial roles, but instead make every possible effort to understand and appreciate the other Party's viewpoints without, however, diluting the correct factual position.

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- c) The Parties shall make every possible effort to render optimum co-operation for a speedy, efficient and mutually acceptable amicable resolution of disputes.
- d) The Parties shall not in any manner make any attempt to unduly influence the Conciliation proceedings or the SAC by way of inducement in any form or manner and shall conduct themselves with full dignity, honesty and integrity.
- e) Notwithstanding that any Conciliation Proceedings have commenced or continued between the Parties, no work shall be stopped by a Contractor merely because of the pendency of disputes before Conciliation. Every work including extra work shall have to be carried out and performed as per the terms of the contract, by a contractor irrespective of the pendency of conciliation proceedings.

#### **14. Agreement of Settlement**

- a) After discussing with and hearing the Parties involved, if the SAC is of the view that there exist circumstances for a settlement of the dispute, the SAC shall formulate the draft terms of a possible settlement and submit the same to the Parties for their consideration and comments.
- b) If any part of the draft terms of settlement is not acceptable to any of the Parties, further meetings/hearings shall be held for possible resolution till mutually acceptable terms are reached.
- c) When a settlement can be arrived at only in regard to any one or only some of the issues referred for Conciliation, an Agreement of Settlement may be signed in regard to the said issue(s), but not the others. Such a Settlement shall be binding on only that one or only some of the issues which are Settled and not the others, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by both Parties.
- d) An Agreement of Settlement shall contain a statement to the effect that each of the person(s) signing: (I) is fully authorized by the respective Party he/she represents, (II) has fully understood the contents of the same, (III) is signing the same out of complete free will and consent, without any pressure or undue influence and (IV) the same shall be final and binding on and enforceable against the Party and the persons who(m) he represents.
- e) When an Agreement of Settlement is signed, the same shall be final and binding on the Parties and the persons claiming under/ through them respectively.
- f) The SAC shall authenticate the Agreement of Settlement. The Agreement of Settlement shall be made in 2 Originals – one each for the two parties. If there are more Parties, then every Party shall be given an original signed Agreement of Settlement and hence more originals shall be made.
- g) The settlement agreement shall have the same status and effect as if it is an arbitral award on agreed terms on the substance of the dispute, under Section 30 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

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**15. Confidentiality and Admissibility of Evidence in Other Proceedings**

- a) The SAC and the Parties shall keep confidential all information furnished, documents filed, evidence produced/adduced during the course of the Conciliation proceedings and the contents of any terms of settlement or draft Settlement Agreement or final Settlement Agreement, except where its disclosure is necessary for purposes of implementation and enforcement of the Settlement Agreement.
- b) Confidentiality under these Rules shall extend to proposals, alternative proposals, communications exchanged between/amongst the Parties, communications exchanged between any of the Parties and the SAC or any of the Conciliators (in case of multi Conciliator Committee), minutes of meeting/hearings, draft Settlement Agreement(s), expert opinions, evidence of witness etc. in relation to the Conciliation proceedings.
- c) Neither the Parties nor the Conciliator(s) shall rely upon or introduce as evidence or give testimony regarding any of the following in any arbitration, judicial or similar proceedings:
  - i. A proposal or alternative proposal by a party, or the willingness of a party to accept a proposal or alternative proposal during the Conciliation proceedings;
  - ii. Views expressed during the Conciliation proceedings in respect of a possible settlement of a dispute or the terms of a possible settlement or otherwise;
  - iii. Statements or admissions made by a party in the course of the Conciliation proceedings;
  - iv. Proposals or suggestions made or views expressed by the SAC;
  - v. A document prepared solely for purposes of the Conciliation proceedings.
- d) The above provisions on confidentiality and admissibility of evidence of the aforesaid material/matter shall also extend to any arbitration, judicial or similar proceedings relating to disputes, which are not the subject matter of the same Conciliation proceedings.
- e) No person who has been a part of the Conciliation proceedings including the Conciliator(s), a Party, witness, or any third party, shall, unless required by applicable law or unless the Parties agree otherwise in writing, give testimony in any arbitration or judicial or similar proceedings concerning any aspect of the Conciliation proceedings, except in respect of a Signed Settlement Agreement, if the veracity of the same is in question, doubt or challenge.
- f) Subject to the limitations contained in this Rule, evidence that is otherwise admissible in arbitration or judicial or similar proceedings does not become inadmissible merely as a consequence of it having been used in a Conciliation proceeding.

**16. Judicial or other Proceedings**

- a) During the course or pendency of a Conciliation proceeding under these Rules; the Parties shall not initiate or take any step to initiate any judicial or other proceedings in respect of a dispute, which is subject matter of a pending Conciliation proceeding and if any proceeding is already pending, then the Party(ies) shall ensure that the same is kept in abeyance/ withdrawn.

- b) Subject to the above sub rule (a), reference of any dispute to Conciliation under these Rules shall be without prejudice to any rights and interest of the Parties involved to resort to Court or judicial proceedings, in case the Conciliation proceedings fails or terminates.
- c) The Conciliation Proceedings under these Rules shall not be deemed to be Arbitration proceedings and any agreement for conciliation shall not be deemed to be an agreement between the parties for Arbitration.

#### **17. Personal Exemption of Conciliators**

- a) A Conciliator shall be given full immunity by both Parties and shall not be held liable for anything done or omitted to be done by him during the course of a Conciliation proceeding, whether by way of any civil or criminal action or otherwise howsoever. No Conciliator shall be summoned or presented by any party as a witness in any arbitration or judicial or similar proceedings in regard to any information received or action taken by him during the course of a Conciliation proceeding.
- b) No Conciliator shall be engaged by the parties in any arbitration or judicial or similar proceedings in respect of a dispute which is the subject matter of a Conciliation proceeding.

#### **18. Termination of Conciliation proceedings**

The Conciliation Proceedings are terminated:

- i. By the signing of the Settlement Agreement by the Parties, on the date of the Agreement; or
- ii. By a written declaration of the SAC, after consultation with the Parties, to the effect that further efforts at Conciliation are no longer justified, on the date of the declaration; or
- iii. By a joint written declaration of the Parties addressed to the SAC to the effect that the Conciliation proceedings are terminated, on the date of the declaration; or
- iv. By a written declaration of one party to the other Party (or other parties) and the SAC, to the effect that the Conciliation proceedings are terminated, on the date of declaration; or
- v. On the expiration of the time period specified in Rule 10(a) above for the completion of a Conciliation proceeding, or any agreed extension thereof by the Parties; or
- vi. On the non-payment of fees/expenses as specified under Rule 11 by a Party; or
- vii. On the failure of the Parties to appoint a Conciliator to constitute the SAC in accordance with these Rules.
- viii. On disqualification of a Conciliator who is part of the SAC.

#### **19. Miscellaneous**

The Management of HPCL may revise, amend or alter these Rules or the Schedule of Fees and other charges to be charged and paid as and when it may think necessary.

Any matter not covered in these Rules shall be in accordance with the provisions of Part-III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, and in general consonance with the intent of these Rules.

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**SCHEDULE A****DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE AND INDEPENDENCE BY MEMBERS OF  
SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Ref: Conciliation between .....and ..... arising out  
of contract/agreement (insert details) ..... dated.....**

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to serve, as a member of the Settlement Advisory Committee in the referred case and hereby make the following declarations:

1. I am familiar with the requirements of the law, particularly the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and HPCL Conciliation Rules, 2018.
2. I am available to serve as a Member of the Settlement Advisory Committee and I am independent of any of the Parties involved in the referred Conciliation proceeding and have no interest – business, financial or otherwise - in any part of the contract/Agreement under reference or subject of the Conciliation proceeding. I am not related to either of the two parties as a serving employee or consultant or Director or Legal Adviser or a substantial shareholder or being a close relative of the owner of either party or in any other manner which will affect my independence or impartiality.
3. I have not dealt earlier with the contract under reference or the subject matter of the Conciliation proceeding in any manner or capacity, which could compromise my ability, independence or impartiality to resolve the dispute(s).
4. In future I will not act as an arbitrator or as a representative or counsel of any Party in any arbitration or judicial or similar proceedings in respect of the dispute which has been referred and which is the subject matter of the Conciliation proceedings.
5. The fees and other facilities for conciliation, offered to and accepted by me will remain fixed and under no circumstances will there be any demand from me for any alteration or change or increase therein, under any nomenclature.

Date:

(Signature)

Name:

Address:

## List of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)

<b>List of Scheduled Public Sector Banks</b>	
<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Bank</b>
1.	Allahabad Bank
2.	Andhra Bank
3.	Bank of Baroda
4.	Bank of India
5.	Bank of Maharashtra
6.	Canara Bank
7.	Central Bank of India
8.	Corporation Bank
9.	Indian Bank
10.	Indian Overseas Bank
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce
12.	Punjab & Sind Bank
13.	Punjab National Bank
14.	State Bank of India
15.	Syndicate Bank
16.	UCO Bank
17.	Union Bank of India
18.	United Bank of India

<b>List of Scheduled Private Sector Banks</b>	
<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Bank</b>
1.	Axis Bank Ltd.
2.	Bandhan Bank Ltd.
3.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
4.	City Union Bank Ltd.
5.	DCB Bank Ltd.
6.	Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.
7.	Federal Bank Ltd.
8.	HDFC Bank Ltd
9.	ICICI Bank Ltd.
10.	IndusInd Bank Ltd
11.	IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd.* (IDFC Bank Ltd.)
12.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
13.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.
14.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
15.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd
16.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
17.	Nainital Bank Ltd.
18.	RBL Bank Ltd.
19.	South Indian Bank Ltd.
20.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.
21.	YES Bank Ltd.
22.	IDBI Bank Ltd.
[* Note: The notification for changing the name of 'IDFC FIRST Bank Limited' in the Second Schedule of RBI Act, 1934 has been sent to Government of India for Gazzette Publication which is yet to be published.]	



<b>List of Scheduled Foreign Banks in India</b>	
<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Bank</b>
1.	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.
2.	Westpac Banking Corporation
3.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC
4.	AB Bank Ltd.
5.	Sonali Bank Ltd.
6.	Bank of Nova Scotia
7.	Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd.
8.	BNP Paribas
9.	Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank
10.	Societe Generale
11.	Deutsche Bank
12.	HSBC Ltd
13.	PT Bank Maybank Indonesia TBK
14.	Mizuho Bank Ltd.
15.	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
16.	The Bank of Tokyo- Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
17.	Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A.
18.	Doha Bank
19.	Qatar National Bank