



**RESERVE BANK OF INDIA**  
**Foreign Exchange Department**  
**Central Office**  
**Mumbai - 400 001**

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RBI/2014-15/495

A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No.83

March 11, 2015

To

All Category – I Authorised Dealer Banks

Madam / Sir,

**Acquisition/transfer of immovable property – Prohibition on citizens of certain countries**

Attention of Authorised Dealers in Foreign Exchange is invited to Regulation 7 of Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of immovable property in India) Regulations, 2000 notified vide [Notification No. FEMA 21/2000-RB dated 3rd May 2000](#) in terms of which no person being a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, Iran, Nepal or Bhutan without prior permission of the Reserve Bank shall acquire or transfer immovable property in India, other than lease, not exceeding five years.

2. It has been observed that Macau and Hong Kong are the two Special Administrative Regions of China. As they are notified separately, it has been decided, in consultation with the Government of India, that citizens of Macau and Hong Kong will also be included in the list of countries which are prohibited to acquire/transfer immovable property in India in terms of Regulation 7 of FEMA *ibid*.

3. Reserve Bank has since amended the Principal Regulations through the Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of immovable property in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015 notified vide [Notification No. FEMA.335/2015-RB dated February 4, 2015](#) c.f. G.S.R. No.120 (E) dated February 24, 2015.

4. Authorised Dealers may bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents concerned.

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

Yours faithfully

(B. P. Kanungo)  
Principal Chief General Manager