

Title: Need to open a branch of Nationalised Bank in Natham Town, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu -Laid.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): In my Palani Parliamentary Constituency "NATHAM" is an important town Natham Taluk is famous for mango fruits, tamarind, guava and coconuts. Large quantities of fruits are exported from here to all parts of the country and abroad. Number of traders come very often to Natham for purchasing all the agricultural produces in bulk and small quantities. They pay money only through bank and they find it very difficult without having adequate number of bank branches. It is unfortunate that Natham is having only one Canara Bank Branch.

In Natham all kinds of Government offices like Taluk Office, Highway Office, PWD Office, Horticulture Office, Agricultural Department, Sub-Treasury, Panchayat Union Office, Government Hospital, Judicial Magistrate-cum-District Munsif Court and Fire Service Department are located. There is no State Bank Branch in Natham to maintain and operate Government accounts. Even Sub-Treasury Accounts are maintained in Canara Bank only.

Arts and Science College, Teacher Training Institute, B.Ed. College and other educational institutions are also functioning in Natham. Large number of outstation students are staying in the Hostels and studying here. Almost all of them remit fees through Bank only.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development has implemented "National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme" in Dindigul District. All the Panchayats in Natham Taluk are included in this programme. Thousands of people are attending this work and they are getting their wages by way of cheques only. For encashing the cheques, they are spending a day.

Hence, there is an urgent need of another Nationalised Bank Branch in Natham. In this regard, Natham Chamber of Commerce and myself have written number of letters to the Hon'ble Minister but till date, there is no positive action in this regard.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to sanction one Nationalised Bank Branch in Natham Town, Dindigul District and do needful.