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Title: Need to set up a Zonal Office of State Bank of India at Silchar, Assam.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (SILCHAR): The demand for opening a Zonal Office of the State Bank of India at Silchar, Assam, covering the Regional Offices of Agartala, Aizawl and Silchar has gained momentum. A cross section of people and representative of different Trade Union, Merchant Associations as well as the customers of the SBI made strong demand for this.

The Regional Offices of Agartala, Aizawl and Silchar are facing a lot of problems in the absence of a Zonal Office here. At present, Agartala and Aizawl Regional Offices are tagged with Shillong Zonal Office and Silchar Regional Office is tagged with Guwahati Zonal office. Both Shillong and Guwahati Zonal Office are far away from their respective Regional Offices because of the difficult terrain of the Jaintia Range and horrible roadways from Silchar to Shillong and Guwahati. All means of communication for Silchar, Agartala and Aizawl are risky and time consuming.

It needs no mention that the Regional Offices have to move their Zonal Offices for disposal of customers' needs, both in terms of technology upgradation and financial sanction. Several representations were made to the SBI authority for opening a Zonal Office at Silchar but unfortunately ignoring all those demands a Zonal office was opened at Jorhat in upper Assam.

Silchar being the second largest town of Assam and also being at the center of both Agartala and Aizawl, the area demands a Zonal Office at Silchar covering the three Regional Offices of SBI and catering to the needs of about one crore population and around 300 branches of the SBI.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to set up a Zonal Office of the SBI at Silchar immediately.