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Title: Need to review the decision to merge State Bank of Travancore with State Bank of India.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): The decision taken by the Government to merge State Bank of Travancore (SBT) with State Bank of India (SBI) has raised serious concern and anguish among the people. SBT was operating as an independent bank prior to the formation of Kerala. It was only in 1959 that it was made an associate bank of SBI. Large number of government treasuries are attached to SBT branches. Moreover, SBT plays a pivotal role in providing agricultural, industrial, and self-employment loans and the government is working in tandem with the bank in providing subsidies. SBT is thus providing loans to the poor people in the state compared to other banks. Disappearance of SBT will affect NRI investment in the state especially when 90% of the investment received by the bank is spent in Kerala by way of loans for agriculture, industry, education. I urge upon the Government to review its decision to merge SBT with SBI.