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Title: Need to review the proposal of merger of State Bank of Travancore with State Bank of India.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): Many State Bank of Travancore (SBT) customers transferred their account from SBI to SBT due to the service provided by it. They say that SBI will become like a 5 star hotel so that they don't want average customers.

SBT was formed after the formation of the state of Kerala. A Number of small banks in the Travancore state were either merged or acquired by SBT and after the formation of Kerala, it become the state treasury of Kerala. This bank is involved in the economic development of Kerala. The entire salary accounts of State Government employees and quasi-government employees, Government corporations and the pension accounts of all the retired employees of the state of Kerala are maintained by SBT. In different parts of the state, treasury operations are done by SBT in order to maintain high credit deposit ratio. SBT is playing an important role in giving educational loans, microfinance and other priority sector lending. It is a common man bank and its history is interlinked with the people of Kerala.

SBT has 1170 branches and worth Rs. 1,68000 crore business. Apart from this, the savings and investments from the state of Kerala will not be eligible for any infrastructure developmental activities. Hence, I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to drop the idea of merger of SBT with SBI.