

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding closing of SBI branches and ATM centres in Kerala

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to raise an important matter before this House... (*Interruptions*).

Madam, banking activity is a part of our life. Banking penetration in India is only 50 per cent. In countries like China, it is 79 per cent and in the United Kingdom and the United States, it is 80 per cent. Our slogan is 'financial inclusion', but with the merger of these five banks, the State Bank of India is reducing its branches and ATM Counters across the country. They are trying to reduce 1400 branches and more than 1000 ATMs across the country.

Apart from this, the Punjab National Bank has already started reducing ATMs and its branches across the country. The Punjab National Bank has already decided to reduce around 300 to 400 branches from its tally of 10,000 branches in the country. This is adversely affecting the common people. The people living in Gram Panchayats and villages will be affected. In my constituency, in Koduvayur and in Palakkad, 2-3 branches have already been closed down by the State Bank of India... (*Interruptions*)

So I would urge upon the Government to withdraw such a decision and increase the number of branches and ATMs. Globally we are far behind the countries like the United Kingdom and the United States. We are sloganeering about Digital India but the actual situation is different... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena, Shri A. Sampath and Shri Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.K. Biju.