

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a): Yes, Sir. It is regretted that there have been incidents of violence.

(b) According to the reports sent by the Government of Pondicherry, two persons were killed and public and private property suffered damage estimated at about Rs. 30 lakhs and Rs. 86,000 respectively.

**Autonomy to Union Territories**

**\*33. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:  
SHRI RAM GOPAL SINGH:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will take steps to grant a greater measure of self-Government to Union Territories; and

(b) whether Government will frame a comprehensive policy regarding the future of these Territories and in particular as to whether they would be merged into neighbouring States or be granted a larger degree of autonomy than that which they enjoy at present?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) and (b): There is no specific proposal at present, except in the case of the Union Territory of Delhi, where legislation to provide for constitution of a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers is already before this House. As regards the question of merger with neighbouring States, the Government have not yet taken a final view in the matter.

**Merger of Pondicherry with neighbouring States**

**\*34. SHRI A. MURUGESAN:  
SHRI SAUGATA ROY:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Government of India has initiated action to merge

ge Pondicherry State with the neighbouring States;

(b) if so, is it based on any requisition from Pondicherry State and the details thereof;

(c) is there any proposal to have referendum in Pondicherry State on the above issue;

(d) is it a fact that all sections of society in Pondicherry State are opposing it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) to (e). The Government have not initiated any action to merge the Union Territory of Pondicherry with neighbouring State or States. A final view will be taken after considering all relevant aspects, including local sentiments.

**Crime situation in the Country**

**\*35. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL:  
SHRI M. KALYANA  
SUNDARAM:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that crime situation in the country has assumed a serious proportion during the past two years and that atrocities on harijans, tribals, minorities and other weaker sections of the communities continued to increase unabatedly particularly in the Indo-Gangatic belt of the country;

(b) if so, the details of crime trend by standard classification (State-wise) for the last two years and how does it compare with the earlier corresponding period;

(c) whether the attacks and murders of political opponents and politicians have increased significantly during the last one year, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of measures taken proposed to be taken and results achieved; and