Creation of Autonomous State in Assam

2218. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create an Autonomous State in Assam, alongwith creation of other States in the country announced by Government in the recent past; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No. Sir, because the Government have decided to ensure territorial integrity of the States of the North East.

Maharashtra-Karnataka Border Dispute

2219. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has written four times to the Prime Minister since November, 1998, to give time to the High Power Committee of Maharashtra to discuss the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute; and

(b) if so, when the Prime Minister propose to meet the High Power Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has written to the Prime Minister in this regard. The Government of India is of the view that the dispute is to be resolved primarily by the State Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation.

Amendment to Official Secrets Act

2220. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the coming of the new Cyber laws, Official Secrets Act needs to be amended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to redefine the concept of transparency in new situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Official Secrets Act, 1923 is intended to protect all matters the disclosure of which is likely to affect the sovereignity and integrity of India, the security of State or friendly relations with foreign countries. All laws including any new Cyber legislation have to take into consideration this aspect.