

STATEHOOD FOR PONDY

what people have to say

This is the third part of a series on public opinion on the most important issue that affects Pondicherrians

N. Maheswari, college student: I am not in favour of statehood as it will not be beneficial both to the public as well as the bureaucrats. More powers to the politicians will lead to rampant corruption. By amending the Union Territory Act sufficient powers may be given to the politicians and bureaucrats to take decisions in Pondy itself on various measures.

S. R. Gopu, sales executive.

In Pondicherry some of the commodities have zero percent tax. For



Manoj Das, famous writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee: In a Union Territory, the Lt. Governor and the bureaucracy has a greater responsibility than the elected representatives. In a State, it is the elected representatives who have a much greater role to play. Somehow, I find this thesis not acceptable in its entirety. Both sections have enough responsibilities to discharge, if they are sincere and if they wish to serve the people, irrespective of the

administrative nature of Pondicherry. In any case, it is the quality of the executive, the officers and the elected representatives that matters. Whether, it is State or Union Territory, problems like urban agglomeration and traffic congestion can be solved with imaginative planning. The need for statehood though is dependent on the aspirations of the people.