

built there. We cannot cultivate our lands. It will take a long, long time. We do not have income resources. At this juncture we need free rations for our survival sustenance. In a welfare state, taking to the course of public interest litigations to have food grains for the life sustenance should not become a regular practice. In this hour of perils, we look forward for your understanding of the problems in the right perspective. Kindly do not stop the issue of free rations till such time we go back to our pre Tsunami villages and start earning our livelihood. This could even be arranged through the Ministry of Rehabilitation. Please help us. We gave our youth to the nation defending our borders. Now we are so old that we cannot get employed as laborers. Present age and health condition of original Ex-Servicemen doesn't suit to work as laborers. Kindly do not leave our hand in this hour of need.

**PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA AMOUNT PROMISED BY MAHARASHTRA GOVT.:** Sir, in the wake of Tsunami disaster, a promise was made by the Govt of Maharashtra that they will be paying a generous amount of Rs.1 lakh to each of the ex-servicemen settlers of this island. Till date that promise remains as promise unfulfilled. We seek your good offices to intervene in this matter and get the promise amount paid to the ex-servicemen settlers.

**SPECIFYING CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AS OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES IN A&N:** Besides Local Boms, Bhatus, Moplas, Karens, the Bengali Settlers (a blanket term) have also been included in the list of OBCs vide A&N Admn Notification No. 343/F.No. 8-3/2003-TW dated 26th December 2004. Bengali settlements took place (probably) after 1942 whereas they have been included in the OBCs list. From this, it is evident that exceptions are made. Under this exception category, the ex-servicemen settlers also need to be included in the list of OBCs in A&N. This may kindly be considered and implemented.

**ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO EX-SERVICEMEN SETTLERS AT PORT BLAIR:** Due to various difficulties and problems that are adherent to the Tsunami affected ex-servicemen families, individually and collectively, some have opted for settling down in their mother States, some have opted to remain and get rehabilitated in Great Nicobar Island itself and some sought for allotment of alternative lands in district Andaman. All these demands of ex-servicemen settlers may please be taken into consideration and a notification regarding the intention of the Admn regarding the rehabilitation measures that are contemplated to be implemented in respect of ex-servicemen families of Great Nicobar Island be issued. The demand for allotment of alternative lands in district Andaman, when met, will solve a number of problems of ex-servicemen. It is requested that the following points be considered for implementation:

- a) Allotment of total alternative lands in the district Andaman.
- b) If the above demand cannot be met, at least one acre homestead land be allotted to each ex-servicemen settler in Paharganj or nearby area.
- c) Construct permanent houses in the areas allotted in Andaman.
- d) The benefits that may accrue by allotting land in district Andaman are many - being aged, ex-servicemen will remain nearer to the Defense Services Hospital at Port Blair, and children of the dependants could get educated in Port Blair schools where the standard of teaching is far better than at Campbell Bay. They can successfully compete with others for getting entry into Govt service. The children of ex-servicemen employed in Govt departments are posted