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located in the Islands. No scientific data is available with category-wise population living in this Island Territory. In the past, the allotments were made for different categories of residents based on assumption of the population ratio. However, no study has yet been made to clearly determine the proportion of population under different categories in the Islands. Therefore, having regard to the amity and harmonious relationship in the Islands, free from the bondage of caste, creed or religion, this year also the Administration fixed up the criteria for allotment of seats clubbing together all the categories of the Islanders excepting the tribals vide Administration's Notification No:1908 dated 25th April 1994. But in spite of the best intention of the Administration, the criteria so fixed in the Notification, failed to satisfy the aspirations of the people. As a matter of fact, it is found on final analysis of the list provisionally prepared by the Administration on the basis of the said Notification, that Pre-1942 settlers and settlers brought under various schemes after 1942, who were together enjoying 50% of the reservations till 1993, failed to secure even one seat for the medical seat even though 13 seats are allotted to the Islanders. In other faculties also their share is much less than the previous years. This has created a feeling of deprivation among these categories. It is well known that pre-1942 settlers and settlers brought under rehabilitation schemes, are much more educationally backward, and the benefit given to them earlier was not available as a result of Notification No:1908 dated 25th April 1994.

Even though, there are no complete details of the population statistics of different categories of population in the Islands, yet it is the bounden duty of the Administration to ensure equitable opportunities to all categories of people settled in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A study of different categories of students needs to be undertaken to determine the exact ratio among the different categories of students to enable a better understanding of the issue. However, in view of the fact that the current academic year has already started in many professional Institutions and such a study would take time, I make the following criteria for allotment of professional/technical and non-technical reserved seats in the various Institutions/