

1. Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to Ranchi & Karen Communities in A&N Islands.

49. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed that a proposal requesting grant of Scheduled Tribe status to Ranchi & Karen communities will be examined as per well established constitutional norms on receipt from the A&N Administration.

Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to Ranchi Communities:

In this connection it may be pointed out that the Adivasis of Chotanagpur popularly known as Ranchis, though it is a Misnomer, have been settled in these Islands under the rehabilitation scheme of the Govt. of India. Subsequently a sizeable population of the Ranchis have migrated from their State of origin on their own and settled in these Islands. They are not Scheduled Tribes in relation to the A&N Islands as they are not included in the constitutional order No.58-the constitution (Andaman of Nicobar Islands) scheduled Tribes Order, 1959 under which the six Scheduled Tribes of this UT have been specified. Instead they are Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State which they originally belong. Thus they are migrants from other State.

With regard to migrant Scheduled Tribes, the Policy laid down by the Govt. of India is that where a person migrates from one State to another State, he / she can claim to belong to a caste/tribe/community only in relation to State which he/she originally belonged and not in respect of the State to which he / she has migrated.

Apparently, they appear to be more advanced than even the progressive tribe, the Nicobarese of this UT let alone the Primitive Tribes. In view of this, the Administration feels that classification of the Ranchis as Scheduled tribe of this UT will be detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Tribes of these Islands.

2). Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to Karen Communities

In this connection it is stated that the President and the Joint Secretary, Karen Youth Organization, Webi Village, Mayabunder Tehsil had earlier submitted a Memorandum dated 18.1.2003 to the Honble Prime Minister of India during his visit to A&N Islands in Jan, 2003 demanding inclusion of the Karen community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the A&N Islands.