

However, the Hon'ble Court of Calcutta Circuit Bench at Port Blair had given a last chance to file Affidavit in opposition before its next circuit sitting with effect from 5th June 2006. As such, the matter was put up to Chief Secretary through the law Secretary who has advised to file Affidavit in opposition, to avoid ex-parte decision. Accordingly, AIO has been filed by Secretary (TW) in the court on 12th June 2006.

As such, the matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, Circuit Bench at Port Blair. Therefore, it would be unsafe for the Administration to give any specific comments on the demand of Ranchi Association for the present.

Point No. 2- Includes the Chotanagpur's tribes in the tribal list of the A & N Islands.

The Chotanagpur Tribes are popularly known as Ranchis in this UT. The case for inclusion of Ranchi and Karens was examined by this Administration way back in 1994 and a view was taken that their inclusion in the list of STs of A & N Islands would be detrimental to the interest of the STs of aboriginal tribes of these Islands. Therefore, their case was not recommended to the Government of India vide this Administration's letter No. 1-581/9-TW dated 18.10.1994 issued with the approval of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands (Copy enclosed for ready reference). The matter was again examined recently and the same view has been reiterated. Accordingly, it was intimated to the Government of India vide our letter No. 1-554/TW/1317 dated 20th July 2005 (Copy enclosed) with approval of the Hon'ble Lt Governor, A & N Islands.

Yours faithfully,

अनुसंधान अधिकारी (ज.क)

Research Officer (TW)

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Copy to: -

1. The Assistant Secretary (Education) with reference to his letter No. 8-SA/BE/2005/D-IV(PF) dated 15th May 2006 regarding memorandum/representation submitted to the Prime Minister during his visit to the A & N Islands on 3 to 5 January 2006.
2. The Assistant Secretary (GA) with reference to his letter No. 2072/2006/PGC (GA) dated 12th May 2006 regarding demand submitted by the General Secretary (Ranchi Association, A & N Islands, Port Blair to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and letter No. 2072/2006 PGC(GA) dated 12th May 2006 regarding demand submitted by the Agapit Khujur state President, JMM, A & N Islands, Port Blair to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.