## F.No.:1-554/2006-TW/ अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION जनजातीय कल्याण विभाग <u>DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE</u>

Port Blair, dated the 23rd August, 2006

To

Shri M.R. Bhakta, Member of parliament (Lok Sabha), C/o Congress Office, Port Blair.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 18/07/2006 addressed to the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, alongwith the enclosure of Shri Saw Harry, Joint Secretary (KBCA) addressed to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament. In this connection, it is to inform you that the Karens of Andaman Islands have been notified as OBCs in respect of this Union Territory vide the Admn's Notification No.343/2005/F.No.8-3/2003-TW dated 16/12/2005 (copy enclosed).

The request of the Karens to include them in the list of STs of A & N Islands has been examined by the Administration and a view has been taken that their inclusion in the list of STs of this UT would be detrimental to the interest of Aboriginal Tribes already notified by the Govt. of India way back in 1959. The Government of India has also been communicated accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary (TW)
(C.F. No.: T2-PA-7-15)