

Reference page No. 237-239/C

- 74. - PUC is letter No. 1-8/DCN/Katchal/2007/617 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007 and enclosure from the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District regarding representation of Shri K. Kalaiselvam, General Secretary, Katchal Settlers Welfare Association, Mildra, Katchal Island.

- 75. - In this regard, it may state that Shri K. Kalaiselvam, General Secretary, Katchal Settlers Welfare Association vide letter No. KSWA/F-I/12 dated 7/7/2007 addressed to the Hon'ble Home Minister of India and copy among others (copy at page 226-227) requested to give agricultural land to Sri Lankan settlers of Katchal Island and settle in any other non-tribal area or settle at Katchal Island with grant of Tribal status.

- 76. - Since the issue is related to District Administration, the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars was requested for his views vide our letter No.577 dated 24/7/2007 (copy at page 228) and in response to same, the PUC has been received.

- 77. - As per copy of D.Cs note dated 3/8/2007 (enclosure to PUC) marked to the Secretary (Revenue) and the Chief Secretary, it has been suggested for physical shifting & settlement of Sri Lankan families of Indian origin settled in rubber plantations at Katchal Island to some non tribal area/villages in Andaman Islands and the issue of granting Tribal Status may be examined by the Tribal Welfare Department.

- 78. - Regarding the issue **Tribal Status**, it is stated that six aboriginal tribal communities who originally belong to the Islands namely Great Andmanese, Onges, Jarawa, Sentinelese, Shompens and Nicobarese have already been notified as the Scheduled Tribes in respect of the UT of A & N Islands by the Government of India by a notification vide the constitution ( A & N Islands) Scheduled Tribe's Order dated 31.3.1959 (copy at page 98/C). Since the Sri Lankan Settlers are not the original inhabitants of these islands like other aboriginal tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, their demand for grant of tribal status cannot be considered in view of the fact that their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of A & N Islands would be detrimental to the interests of Scheduled Tribes of these Islands.

- 79. - Since the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District has already expressed his views about the demand for allotment of Agriculture Land and resettlement in any other non tribal area , if approved we may express our views about the **Tribal Status** to the Secretary Revenue for suitable action at his end.

A draft letter is put up for approval please.

R.O (J)

Assistant Commissioner (TW)  
T6 RG

Special Secretary (TW)

AC (TW)

31/10/07

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31/10/07