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No. 1-554/2004/TW/1317
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
RAJ NIWAS

Port Blair, dated the 19th July 2005
20th

To

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Subject: Representation dated 18th March 2005 of Ranchi Association seeking recognition of the Ranchi tribe as a Scheduled Tribe of A & N Islands and resultant benefits therefrom in the light of Supreme Court's order dated 11.2.2005 in Civil Appeal No.6-7 of 1998.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of the representation dated 18th March 2005 received from the Ranchi Association, Port Blair, seeking inter-alia (1) recognition of the Ranchi tribe as a Scheduled Tribe of A & N Islands, and (2) extend all consequential benefits in the light of the pronouncement of the Supreme Court in the Civil Appeal No.6-7/1998 (with Civil Appeal No. 45 of 1998 in S Pushpa & Ors - Vs - Sivasanmugavelu and Ors) in the judgment dated 11th February 2005.

✓ The people of the Ranchi community of A & N Islands were initially brought from Chotanagpur area adjoining Bihar in the post-1942 period and settled in the Islands. The people of this community have been recognized as Scheduled Tribe in the State of Bihar/Jharkand. They have been demanding recognition as a Scheduled Tribe of A & N Islands since long. This issue was earlier examined by the UT Administration, but the demand could not be acceded to since they do not originally belong to these Islands or to the aboriginal tribal communities of these Islands. Six such aboriginal tribal communities who originally belong to the Islands namely the Jarawas, the Great Andamanese, the Onges, the Sentinelese, the Shompens and the Nicobarese, have already been notified as the Scheduled Tribes in respect of the UT of A & N Islands. ✓

The Ranchi Association while referring to the decision of the Supreme Court in the above cited case in which the Govt of Pondicherry was allowed to consider the applicants belonging to Scheduled Castes of other States against reserved vacancies in the civil posts under the Govt of Pondicherry, demanded that the same should be enforced in all Union Territories including the UT of A & N Islands and consequentially they should be provided with the following benefits:-

- (a) Eviction of the Ranchi community people from the forest land be stopped;
- (b) Consider the Ranchi community applicants against the vacancies reserved for STs in the UT Administration;