

The Post-'48 Settlers have been oppressed, suppressed, cheated, harassed and exploited in all aspects (that is, politically, socially, economically, culturally, administratively, etc.) in these islands for several decades since their settlement in 1949. Now this poverty ridden Post-'48 Bengali Refugee Settlers are driven to prostitution and other illegal activities for their survival. They contribute less than 1% of the government employees (except teachers,--thanks God for having few Bengali medium schools) and have no directly recruited Tahsilder or a Sub-inspector in police in the Administration nearly 60 years after settlement.

The Bengalees are the Back-Bone of the society of these islands. They constitute the majority of population. Still they are being deprived and exploited in all aspects. About 90% of the Bengali Refugee Settlers (about 20% - 24% of the total population) belong to Nama-Sudra and other Sudra Communities. No political party can master a win in these islands without the support of the Bengali population.

It is very surprising that the Scheduled Caste Communities of these Islands have not been recognized by the Administration and GOI. Recently OBCs have been declared in these islands based on category of people (not on caste basis to mislead people) in the interest of the descendents of the convicts mainly. Nama-Sudra and Sudra Bengali Settlers have been declared as OBCs against their wishes to deprive them the legitimate and constitutional rights of being declared as Scheduled Caste.

BAANI wish to draw your kind attention into the following grievances and demands :--

1. Commissioning the S.C. Commission for the Post-'48 Settlers and the Pre-'42 Settlers as they are rooted in these islands having no other statehood.
2. Separate district for North & Middle Andamans have been declared recently. But as expected, the District Headquarters has not been declared at Rangat, but at Mayabunder to appease a particular community and to deprive the majority. Rangat is the second populated town in these islands. Mayabunder is having only about 1500 people (excluding government employees and officers) comprising Krans (a tribe from Myanmar) and Moplas. It has very less land mass for development and is very far from Baratung, Uffara, Kadamtala and other Settlement areas. Rangat is ideal for District HQs. from all aspects.