

Demand for formation of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste Commission received from Dr. Gouranga Ch. Majhi, CPI (M) Local Committee, Diglipur by Hon'ble Lt. Governor A & N Islands.

As per the policy laid down by the Govt. of India in respect of migrant SC / ST communities, if a person migrates from one State to another State he / she can claim to belong to a caste / tribe / community only in relation to State which he/she originally belongs and not in respect of the State to which he / she has migrated. People of migrant communities are not the original inhabitants of these islands as like other aboriginal tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of A & N Islands would be detrimental to the interest of aboriginal tribes of these islands. Therefore, no Scheduled Caste community has been notified in relation to the A&N Islands. The Scheduled tribes notified are the original inhabitants of these islands, and the migrants from mainland are not covered either, under the ST notification.

A decision on above lines was re-iterated by the Administration in the matter of requisition for recommendation to include Ranchi Community in the Scheduled Tribe list of A & N Islands received from State President, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, and Port Blair, vide letter No. JMM/ 12/06 dated 18/11/06 and their demand was forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs and copy to the Secretary to the Govt. of India, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes New Delhi vide our letter No. 1-554/2004-TW/ 1072 dated 8.12.2006 as desired by then Hon'ble Lt. Governor. **(Copy enclosed)**

A similar decision was again taken in the matter of a joint memorandum submitted by the A & N units of AIDMK, BSP, CPI, CPI (M), CPI (ML), DMK, JMM & RJD, demanding "Constitution of a Commission for A & N Islands for identification of SC/ST", and their memorandum was sent to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi for further advice vide our letter No. 1-793/2001-TW/133 dated 15/5/07 and copy to the Secretary to the Govt. of India, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes New Delhi. **(Copy enclosed)**

Regarding Scheduled Caste community no Scheduled Caste has been notified in relation to the A&N Islands. A demand of the Bengali Association for commissioning the Scheduled Caste Commission for the Post- 48 Settlers and Pre-42 Settlers rooted in these islands was received through the Joint Secretary (Rev) A & N Administration in which it was decided that since the Pre-1942 settlers and the Post-1942 Bengali Settlers settled in A & N Islands have already been notified as OBCs of these islands, the demand for commissioning the Scheduled Caste Commission for the Post- 48 Settlers and Pre-42 Settlers seems to be not justified. This was communicated to the Administration vide our letter No. 1-554/2004-TW/ 293 dated 5/07/2007 **(Copy enclosed)**