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F. No 1-554/2006-TW/1072
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE,
Secretariat Complex, Port Blair.

m
Port Blair, dated 8 December, 2006.

To

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Govt. of India, North Block
New Delhi.

Sub:- Requisition for recommendation to include Chotanagpuri Tribals Orans, Mundas, Kharias, Santhals, Lohras, Chik-Bariks and others in the Scheduled Tribe list of A & N Islands- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the letter No. JMM/12/06 dated 18/11/06 of the State President, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Port Blair addressed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands and copy to Hon'ble Member of Parliament, A & N constituency regarding requisition for recommendation to include Chotanagpuri Tribals-Orans, Mundas, Kharias, Santhals, Lohras, Chik-Bariks and others in the Scheduled Tribe list of A & N Islands.

The people belonging to the above said community, commonly known here as Ranchis, migrated to Andaman Islands in the past. They are the STs in relation to their state of origin i.e. Bihar, Jharkhand etc. They have been demanding recognition as a Scheduled Tribe of A & N Islands since long.

The case for inclusion of Ranchis in the Scheduled Tribe list was examined by the UT Administration way back in 1994 and a view was taken that their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of A & N Islands would be detrimental to the interest of aboriginal tribes of these islands. Six such aboriginal tribal communities who originally belong to the Islands namely the Great Andmanese, the Onges, the Jarawa, the Sentinelese, the Shompens and the Nicobarese have already been notified as the Scheduled Tribes in respect of the UT of A & N Islands. Therefore, the case of Ranchis was not recommended to the Govt. of India vide Administrations letter No. 1-581/91-TW, dated 18th October 1994 (copy enclosed).

This matter was again examined in 2005 and the same view has been reiterated. Accordingly the opinion of the Administration thereon was also communicated to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home affairs vide Administrations letter No. 1-554/2004-TW/1317 dated 20th July 2005 (Copy enclosed).