

Subject:

Para
No.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
Directorate of Tribal Welfare

Sl. No. I (R) Page No.1-24/C

(1) PUC is received from the President Karen Youth Association, Mayabunder with reference to the meeting of the Association with the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of A&N Islands at Raj Niwas on 5th July 2004 regarding inclusion of the Kerens in the list of Scheduled Tribes of this UT. He has enclosed copy of various correspondences in the matter the Kerens Youth organization had with the Administration and Govt. of India.

(2) In this connection it is stated that the Kerens of Mayabunder Tahsil have been representing to various authorities of Government of India and A&N Administration for granting ST status to them in respect of A&N Islands. Latest representation dated 18/7/2002 was submitted to then Prime Minister of India during his visit to A&N Islands. The Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide their letter No.12016/35/2001-TA(RL) dated 6/2/2003, at Page 42/C had called for the comments of the Administration. The issue was examined and a report was sent to Govt. of India with the approval of the then Lt. Governor stating that the Karens are far more advanced than the STs viz. Nicobarese, Shompens, Sentinelese, Onges, Great Andamanese & Jarawa of this UT. So it will be detrimental to the interest of the Aboriginal Tribes of this UT to recommend the Kerens for ST status. (A copy of the relevant noting and the report sent to Govt. of India are placed at Pages 45-46/C.

(3) The then Hon'ble Minister of the Tribal Affairs vide his DO letter No.1206/35/2001-TA (RL) dated 18/8/2003 addressed the then MP, A&N Islands Constituency, (a copy is placed at page 47/C) has replied that the Karen Community is yet to become eligible for inclusion in the list Scheduled Tribes of A&N Islands.

(4) However, the Kerens have opted for Other Backward Class status and the OBC Commission A & N Islands has since recommended for declaring them as OBC along with a few other communities in respect of A&N Islands.

(5) Submitted please.

Research Officer (TW)
(CF-T6-SA)

What action is to be taken now?
by

dev
12/12/04

Dir (TW)

B
13/12/04 (TW)

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P.O.

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