

Ref. Dir(TW)'s minutes at para 60/N

61 PUC is a letter dated 6.2.2003 from the Deputy Director, Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi addressed to Secretary(TW), A&N Administration forwarding therewith a copy of Memorandum dated 18.1.2003 of the General Secretary, Karen Youth Organization, Mayabunder handed over to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to A&N Islands regarding inclusion of Karen community in the list of STs. He has asked for the comments of the Administration on the Memorandum. Further he has invited a reference of this Administration's letter No. 1-581/91-TW dated 12/ 18th Oct. 1994 wherein this Administration did not recommend for inclusion of the Karens in the list of STs. Further he has asked for the stand of the Administration on the issue. A copy of the above letter of the Administration is placed at pages 92-93/c.

62 The issue to consider Scheduled Tribes status to the Ranchis and Karens was earlier examined by the Administration in the context of a reference from the Govt. of India in connection with revision of list of SCs and STs vide note at paras 81-86/N, a xerox copy of which is placed at pages 94-96/C. As pointed out in the above note, the Karens were far more developed than even the Nicobarese, let alone the other five Primitive Tribes. Karens were already getting preference in recruitment to Group-C and D posts under the Administration alongwith the other locals. So classifying them as STs in respect of this UT was going to be detrimental to the interests of the Aboriginal Scheduled Tribes of these islands. Therefore the Administration did not recommend inclusion of Karens and Ranchis in the list of ST of these Islands and a reply to this effect was sent to Govt. of India with the approval of the then Lt. Governor vide this Administration's letter dated 18/10/1994 at pages 92-93/C.

63 The Karen Youth Organization had represented to the Govt. of India for inclusion of the Karen community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of A&N Islands and in reply to their representation, the Govt. of India had informed vide their letter dated 12.7.1995 at page 77/c to Secretary, Karen Baptist Christian Association that their proposal was being considered as per the criteria laid down in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and any amendment in the existing list of SCs and STs could be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Article 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.