

Ref. page 141-142/C (PUC)

78 PUC is a letter No.2-4(146)/2003-IDA dated 9th December 2003 of Secretary(IDA), A & N Administration addressed to various Heads of the Departments including Director (TW), A & N Administration forwarding copies of letters of Member of Parliament regarding fresh agenda points for inclusion in the 9th IDA meeting of the Standing Committee of IDA scheduled to be held on 23rd December 2003 at New Delhi. He has asked for a detailed note on the agenda points.

77 So far as the tribal welfare department is concerned, we are concerned with the following fresh agenda points viz- (i) Granting Schedule Tribe status to Ranchi Communities, (ii) Granting of Scheduled Tribe status to Karen communities, (iii) Granting Scheduled Caste status to large number of Tamil, Telgu and ex-bengali refugees mentioned in the letter dated 6th December 2003 at pages 149-151 of the Member of Parliament addressed to the Chairman Standing Committee of IDA, Planning Commission, New Delhi. Each agenda point is discussed as under:

1. ***Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to Ranchi Communities:***

It is stated that the President A&N Ranchi Association had submitted a representation to the Prime Minister of India during his visit to these island in January 2002. In connection with granting ST status to the Ranchis living in A&N Islands, The issue was examined and a report containing the view point of the Administration was sent to Assistant Secretary (PGE), Secretariat vide this office letter No. 1-554/2003-TW/608 dated 30th June 2002 at pages 157-158/C. The relevant portion of the report is reproduced below:

78 In this connection it may be pointed out that the Adivasis of Chotanagpur popularly known as Ranchis, though it is a Misnomer, have been settled in these Islands under the rehabilitation scheme of the Govt. of India. Subsequently a sizeable population of the Ranchis have migrated from their State of origin on their own and settled in these Islands. They are not Scheduled Tribes in relation to the A&N Islands as they are not included in the constitutional order No.58-the constitution (Andaman of Nicobar Islands) scheduled Tribes Order, 1959 under which the six Scheduled Tribes of this UT have been specified. Instead they are Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State which they originally belong. Thus they are migrants from other State.

79 With regard to migrant Scheduled Tribes, the Policy laid down by the Govt. of India is that where 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 belonged and not in respect of the State to which he / she has migrated.