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educational, professional/technical Institutions and reservation in services/ posts under this Administration will be provided after the Karen community alongwith the other recommended communities are declared as OBC in respect of this UT.

3) ***Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to the large number of Telugu, Tamil, East Bengal Refugees;***

There are no SCs notified in relation to the A&N Islands. The Telugu and Tamils, who are stated to be belonging to SC category in the mainland, have migrated from mainland and settled in these islands. As per the policy laid down, the Govt. of India with regard to migrant SC/ST Committee, 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. As such the Tamil and Telugu belonging to SC category in mainland are not eligible for SC status here.

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The East Bengal refugees i.e., Bengali settlers who are also stated to be belonging to SC category in the mainland, have been settled in these islands under the approved rehabilitation schemes of the Government.

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The issue of considering the Bengali refugees as SCs in respect of A&N Islands was dealt earlier also in the year 1995. The decision of the Administration in the past has been to not to propose to recognize the Bengali refugees i.e. Namasudra as Scheduled Castes in this UT on the ground that untouchability does not prevail in these Islands and none of the communities including Bengalis suffer social disabilities like deprivation from the use of public places, places of worship and other social boycott unlike the Scheduled Castes in other parts of the country which warrant them to be classified as Scheduled Castes. They have equal status in the society in these Islands.

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In response to the letter No.12016/13/2001-SCD (R.L.Cell) - A&N dated 8th May 2003 from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India in the context of issue relating to recognition of Bengali refugees belonging to Namasudra etc. as Scheduled Caste in A&N Islands, the similar view has been taken by the Department and a reply / comments accordingly have been sent to the Home Section of the A&N Administration in September 2003 under File No. 1-554/2000-TW (copy of notes and reply is placed in this file at pages 182 to 187/C).