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No.1-554/2000-TW/978  
**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE**  
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Port Blair, dated the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2003.

To

The Assistant Secretary(Home),  
A&N Administration,  
Port Blair.

**Sub:- Recognition of Bengalee Refugees belonging to the Namasudra, Poundra, etc. communities as Scheduled Castes and inclusion in the list of Scheduled castes of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands where they have been rehabilitated by the Govt. of India.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.4-57/99-Home (Foreign) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2003 on the above mentioned subject. In this connection the comments of the Tribal Welfare Department on the issue of recognition of Bengali refugees belonging to Namasudra etc as SC are given as under:-

As for as the A & N Islands are concerned, the Bengalee refugees mostly Namasudra, hailed originally from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) have settled in South, Middle and North Andamans under the colonisation / rehabilitation scheme of the Govt. of India. The Bengalee Refugees from East Pakistan had initially migrated to West Bengal, where they were kept in transit camp and from there they were shifted to various States/UTs including the A & N Islands for permanent settlement under the rehabilitation scheme of the Govt. of India.

With regard to their claim for SCs status in the UT of A&N Islands, it is stated originally they belong to Namasudra Community having SC status in West Bengal. After their migration to A&N Islands, they have not been recognised as such by the A&N Administration for the reasons that other than the scheduled and notified tribes, there is no discrimination on the basis of castes