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A note on additional Agenda Points proposed by Hon'ble M.P for the ensuing IX Meeting of the Standing Committee of IDA.

1). Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to Ranchi Communities;

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.

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.

Apparently, they appear to be more advanced than even the progressive tribe, the Nicobarese of this UT, let alone the Primitive Tribes. In view this, the Administration feels that classification of the Ranchis as Scheduled Tribe of this UT will be detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Tribes of these Islands.

2). Granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to Karen Communities

In this connection it is stated that the President and the Joint Secretary, Karen Youth Organization, Webi- village, Mayabunder Tehsil had earlier submitted a Memorandum dated 18.1.2003 to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to A&N Islands in Jan, 2003 demanding inclusion of the Karen community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the A&N Islands.

The Deputy Director, Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide his letter No.12016/35/2001-TA (RAL) dated 6th February 2003 forwarded a copy of the above said Memorandum seeking the comments of the Administration on the demand of the Karen Youth Organization. A report in the matter was furnished to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide the Administration's letter No.1-554/2000-TW/569 dated 1st April 2003. The relevant portion of the report is quoted below:-

"That the Karens were far more developed than even the Nicobarese, let alone the other five Primitive Tribes and the Karens already are getting preference in recruitment to Group-C and D posts under the Administration alongwith the other locals. So classifying them as a ST in respect of this UT would be detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Tribes of this UT. Therefore the Administration did not recommend classification of Karens as