

No.1-554/2003-TW/  
**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE**

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To

The Director (ANL),  
Govt. of India,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi - 110 001

**Sub:- Demand for granting Scheduled Tribe status to Ranchi and Karen communities and Scheduled Caste status to Bengali, Tamil and Telugu communities - reg.**

Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.U-14035/1/2004-ANL dated 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2004 regarding the above mentioned subject and the comments of this UT Administration on the demand for granting ST status to Ranchi and Karen communities and SC status to the Bengali, Tamil & Telugu communities are as under:-

**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 as subsequently amended vide Constitutional order No.108 of 1976 under which the six Scheduled Tribes of this UT have been specified. However 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.