

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.

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, they too would have been SCs in the State of their origin i.e., East Bengal, had they not been brought here for settlement. As per the policy laid down by the Govt. of India in respect of SC / ST migrated from one State to another, they are also not eligible for SC status here. The un-touchability is not practiced in these Islands and none of the communities including Bengalis suffer social disabilities by deprivation from the use of public places, places of worship and other social boycott unlike the Scheduled Castes in other part of the country, which warrant them to be classified as Scheduled Castes. They have equal status in the society in these Islands.

Encl: A/A

Research Officer (TW)  
(CF: T6-PQ)

Copy to:-

The Assistant Director, Govt. of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi with reference to his letter No.12016/25/2001-SCD (R.L.Cell)-A&N dated 19/01/2004.

Research Officer (TW)