

Sl.No.3 (R)-P-14/C

(12)

PUC is a letter dated 12.8.2003 from Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), A&N Constituency addressed to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands regarding inclusion of the Karen community in the list of STs. He has stated that representatives of the Karen Community met the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to A&N Islands and submitted a Memorandum dated 18.1.2003 regarding inclusion of Karen community in the list of STs. The Hon'ble Prime Minister is said to have agreed to it being a genuine demand and advised to pursue. Subsequently two members of Karen Community met the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs at Delhi with the letter dated 29.4.2003 of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament and he<sup>is</sup> said to have assured that he would write to UT Administration for this purpose. The copy of Hon'ble M.P's letter dated 29.4.2003 said to have been enclosed with this letter has not been received in this office. He has requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor to look into the matter and support their case.

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In this connection it is stated that the Deputy Director, Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi vide his letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> February dated 2003 at page 15/c forwarded the above mentioned memorandum of the Karen Youth Organizations seeking the comments of the Administration on their demand. The issue was examined in the light of the earlier decision of the Administration with regard to inclusion of the Karen and Ranchi Communities in the list of the STs vide notes at pages 27-28/C and it was decided by the Administration that the same view as held earlier with regard to according ST status to the Karens may be conveyed to the Govt. of India, as the aboriginal tribes of this UT are still much backward when compared to the Karens ( In this connection please refer to letter number 1-581/91-TW/dated 18.10.1994, a copy of which is placed at pages 5-6/C). Accordingly, a reply in this matter was furnished to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide this Administration's letter dated 1.4.2003 at page 25/C. We may therefore send a reply to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament in the above lines, if approved. A draft reply is put up for approval please.

Submitted please.

Research Officer(TW)  
(T6-Scheduling of Communities)

Director/(TW)

may please approve

Sery (TW)

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