

There are six Scheduled Tribes viz, Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Karens are not the aboriginal tribe of this UT unlike the six STs mentioned above, but it is a tribe originated from Burma. They were brought to this UT by the colonial Administration to work as labourers in the forest. At present they are living in Mayabunder Tehsil.

In the meanwhile the Karens have opted for OBC status and the Commission considering their social educational and economic backwardness have recommended for declaring them as OBC alongwith other communities in respect of A&N Islands. The report is being examined by the Administration. Necessary reservation of seats in educational, professional/technical Institutions and reservation in services/ posts under this Administration could be provided after the Karen community alongwith the other communities has been declared as OBC in respect of this UT.

The aboriginal tribes of this UT are still backward when compared with the Karens. As such there are no sufficient grounds or reasons to review the decision taken by the Administration earlier with regard to inclusion of the Karens in the list of the STs. Moreover, the Karens have been recommended for OBC status by the OBCs Commission. Accordingly we may send a reply to Govt. of India, if approved. A draft reply is placed opposite for perusal and approval please.

Research Officer(TW)  
(C.F.No.T2-4532)

Director (TW)

May please approve.

Secy (TW), *[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
17.3.03

C.S. May approve in view of (A).  
*[Signature]*

Pradeep Singh  
Chief Secretary

Secy (TW) *[Signature]*  
Dir (TW) *[Signature]*

Ro/121)

*[Signature]*  
29.3.2003

LG's Secretariat  
SI No. 524

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