

Ref. Sl.No. 5 (R) - page 34/c

(20) PUC is a D.O.letter dated 21/08/2003 of the Secretary (General), National Human Right Commission, New Delhi addressed to Chief Secretary, A & N Administration calling for the details of the denotified and nomadic tribal communities which formed part of the Criminal Tribes Act 1871.

(21) There are six aboriginal tribes viz - Onges, Great Andamanese, Shompens, Sentinelese, Jarawas and Nicobarese notified as Scheduled Tribes in respect of this UT. None of them were described as Criminal Tribes under Criminal Tribes Act 1871. So the question of denotifying them did not arise when the Act was repealed after Independence.

(22) However, a community named - Bhatu who were the members of the roving tribe of North and Central India, were convicted and jailed for having committed organised offence of robbery and decoity and the then government of United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) tried to confine the rest to settlement under the care of salvation Army. A large gang of them voluntarily came to Andamans in 1926 and they were settled and allotted agricultural land at places such as Caddle gunj, Aniket and Ferrargunj (Please refer to census report of 1931 in respect of Bhatu placed at pages 35-55/C)

(23) The Act proscribing various tribes as Criminal Tribes having been repealed after independence, the Bhatu came under the denomination of Denotified Tribe and they were notified as Scheduled Caste vide Sl.No.20 of the part XVIII - Uttar Pradesh, of Brochure containing list of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (a copy of the relevant portion of the brochure is placed at pages 56-57/C)

(24) The A&N Commission for OBCs in its report submitted to this Administration has recommended classification of the Bhatu as OBC in respect of this UT along with other four communities. Though the Bhatu form part of pre 1942 settlers (pre 1942 settlers include old inhabitants ie. ex-convicts and their decedents Moplas, Bhatu and Karens), they were separately identified as OBC for having maintained their cultural identity throughout. Their population is roughly estimated at 1450. They have already joined the mainstream with the rest of the pre-1942 settlers. There has been no complaint of ill treatment of this community. They have been provided free education upto class XII, free health care facilities preference in employment in Government Service, allotment of reserved seats for professional courses in the mainland etc. If approved we may send a reply in the above lines. A draft reply is put up for approval, please.

Director/TW

Research Officer(TW)
(CF : T4-tribes)

30.9.03

forward

8.10.2003

Secy(TW)

194/Secy(TW)
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