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Human Rights Commission Reference

No.1-554/2003-TW/ 1165
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
Directorate of Tribal Welfare
Secretariat Complex

Port Blair, dated the 10th November 2003

To

1. The Inspector General of Police,
Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
Port Blair.
2. The Deputy Commissioner,
Andaman District,
Port Blair.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of D.O. letter No. 18-6/2000-PRP&P dated 21st October 2003 of Secretary (General), National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi calling for the details of the denotified and nomadic tribal communities who were covered earlier under Criminal Tribes Act 1871.

In this connection, it is stated that there are six aboriginal tribes viz - Onges, Great Andamanese, Shompens, Sentinelese, Jarawas and Nicobarese notified as Scheduled Tribes in respect of this UT. As none of them were proscribed as Criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act 1871, the question of denotifying them did not arise.

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. 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 villages in South Andaman.

The A & N Commission for other Backward Commission in its report submitted to this Administration recently has recommended for the classification of Bhatu as Other Backward Class in respect of this UT alongwith other four communities. The report of the Commission is under consideration of this Administration. The Bhatu will be entitled for all admissible facilities once they are notified as OBCs in this UT.