



A. ANBARASU
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D. O. No. 1-554/2003-TW/ 1273
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
Secretariat

Port Blair, dated the 19th December, 2003

Dear Sir,

Kindly refer your DO No.18/6/2000-PRP&P dated 21st August, 2003 addressed to Chief Secretary, A&N Administration calling for the details of the denotified and nomadic tribal communities who were covered earlier under Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. So far as this UT is concerned the point-wise information is furnished as under:-

- (i). 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 does 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 organized 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 group 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 four other communities. The report of the commission is under the consideration of this Administration. The Bhatu will be entitled for all admissible facilities once they are notified as OBCs in this UT.

- ii). As mentioned in our reply to Point No.(i) above the Bhatu have been settled at the following villages namely - Caddle Gunj, Aniket and Ferrargunj in South Andaman. Over the years they have shed their criminal attitude and got integrated with the rest of the population. Inter-cast marriages between Bhatu and other communities have also been reported.