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Dated 15·12·03

To

Hon'ble Rashtrapati of India
New Delhi

Sub: **Prayer seeking granting of status of Scheduled Tribes (ST) to Ranchi and Karen communities and Scheduled Caste (SC) to Bengali, Tamil, and Telegu communities.**

Most Respected Sir,

We beg to state that 22 delegates have come from Andaman Islands to present our demands with justification for your kind consideration:

a).   Granting of Scheduled Tribes Status to locally named 'Ranchi' community (Uroan, Munda, Kharia, etc.) from Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh States (formerly Bihar province) and Madhya Pradesh settled permanently since before independence in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(i)   During pre-independence and post-independence period, people under the ST category of Munda, Uraon, Kharia, etc. were brought to Andaman & Nicobar Islands from formerly Bihar province (presently Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh for creation of infrastructure and to settle the East Bengal Refugees, Tamil, Keralites and other communities in A&N Islands.

(ii)   This community locally called as Ranchi community undertake all development works, such as, construction of roads, clearance of jungle, for settlement of refugees under the Government's Colonization Scheme. In this process they faced many hazards and many of them untimely succumbed to snake bites, mosquito bites and primitive Jarwah and elephant attacks, and absolute dearth of medical care.

(iii)   This community is economically, socially and educationally backward. In the last fifty years hardly 1 or 2 students among this community has gone for higher education though they have quotas or got government jobs. 99% of this community are living on casual laborious work.

(iv)   We are demanding the status of Scheduled Tribes as in mainland States. We may be recognized as Scheduled Tribes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(2)   Karens of Andamans are of Myanmarese origin, and have been living in Andaman, before independence. They have their own distinct traits which are quite primitive in nature, for examples – Karens have traditional Male Delivery