ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION Directorate of Tribal Welfare Secretariat Complex, Port Blair - 744 101

Sub: Grant of permission to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister for the purpose of submitting the issues of Karen Community living in these islands for the inclusion of our Karens in the list of Scheduled Tribes- Reg.

An application dated 09/01/2003 of General Secretary, Karen Youth Organization, Webi village, Mayabunder Tehsil addressed to Chief Secretary, A & N Administration requesting grant of permission to atleast three persons of their organization to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in connection with their demand for inclusion of the Karen in the list of Scheduled Tribes of this UT is forwarded herewith.

It may, however, be mentioned that they had earlier represented to GOI for inclusion of the Karen Community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of A & N Islands and in reply to their representation the GOI had informed vide their letter No.12016/30/95-3CD(R.Cell) dated 12.7.1995 (copy enclosed) to Secretary, Karen Baptist Christian Association that their proposal was being considered as per the criteria laid down in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes and any amendment in the existing list of STs could be done only through an Act of Parliament.

In the meanwhile they have opted for OBC status and the OBCs Commission has recommended them as such in its report submitted to the Administration in July 2001:

Encl: A/A

Commissioner-cum-Secretary to LG

U.O.No. 1-554/2000-TW/ 75

(S.A.Awaradi)

Director (TW)