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(42) PUC is a letter dated 9/01/2003 from Shri Saw Say Tha, General Secretary, Karen Youth Organization, Webi village, Mayabunder addressed to Chief Secretary, A & N Administration regarding grant of permission to three persons to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to these Islands in connection with inclusion of Karens in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This was discussed with the Secretary (TW) on 15.1.2003 when the Director (TW) was also present. As directed by the Secretary (TW), we may forward their application to Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Lt. Governor for necessary action as we will not be in touch with PM when he visits this UT.

(43) It may, however, be mentioned that they had earlier represented to GOI for inclusion of 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 at page 44/C 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.

(44) In the meanwhile they have opted for OBC status and the OBC Commission has recommended them as such in its report submitted to the Administration in July 2001. A U.O note is placed below for approval please.

[Signature]
16.1.03
Research Officer (TW)
(T4-168)

Director (TW)

[Signature]
16.1.03

[Signature] (TW) *[Signature]*
[Signature] 17.1.03

244/Dir(TW)
16/1/03

DR. K. M. 11