(8)

Subject :

Para No.

From pre-page

Council. The Administration has at that time also undertaken a detailed ethnographic survey of the Karens of these Islands(The same may be seen at pages 130-136/c of the linked file). From the same, it is observed that over the time, the Karen community of Burma having a total population of 1525 living at present in Mayabunder sub-division cannot be considered to be an aboriginal community as it is originated from Burma. The community otherwise has adopted modernised way of life and apart from their traditional occupation of cultivation, hunting and shell fishing has also entered Govt.services like Teachers, Clerks etc on the basis of their educational advancement.

No such detailed survey about the Ranchis has been undertaken as they are spread all over the Islands. The Ranchis have been settled in these Islands mainly under the rehabilitation scheme of the Govt.of India. As such, like any other settler community, they are entitled to the benefits of reservation in Govt.services under the Administration (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) as well as for allocation of seats in educational institutions in the mainland.

Inclusion of any of these two communities, it is felt, will be detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Tribes of these Islands. The Nicobarese is the only aboriginal tribe of these Islands which is considered to have fully adopted the civised way of life. Still they are economically and

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(84)