

Ref: Page 73-77/C.

(51) PUC is a letter dated 6.2.2003 from the Deputy Director, Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi addressed to Secretary(TW), A&N Administration forwarding therewith a copy of Memorandum dated 18.1.2003 of the General Secretary, Karen Youth Organization, Mayabunder handed over to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to A&N Islands regarding inclusion of Karen community in the list of STs. He has asked for the comments of the Administration on the Memorandum. Further he has invited a reference of this Administration's letter No. 1-581/91-TW dated 12/ 18th Oct. 1994 wherein this Administration did not recommend for inclusion of the Karens in the list of STs. Further he has asked for the stand of the Administration on the issue. A copy of the above letter of the Administration is placed at pages 92-93/c.

(52) A perusal of the letter reveals that the Administration declined to recommend their classification as ST in view of the fact that they were for more advanced than even the most advanced Scheduled Tribe of these Islands i.e. Nicobarese, let alone the Primitive Tribes and they were already getting preference in recruitment to Group-C and D posts under the Administration alongwith the other locals of their categories. So classifying them STs in respect of this UT was going to be detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Tribes of this UT.

(53) There are six Scheduled Tribes viz, Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Karens are not the aboriginal tribe of this UT unlike the six STs mentioned above, but it is a tribe originated from Burma. They were brought to this UT by the colonial Administration to work as labourers in the forest. At present they are living in Mayabunder Tehsil.

(54) ✓ The Karen Youth Organization had earlier represented to the Govt. of India for inclusion of Karen community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of A&N Islands and in reply to their representation, the Govt. of India had informed vide their letter dated 12.7.1995 at page 77/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 and Scheduled Tribes and any amendment in the existing list of SCs and STs could be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of article 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution. But the Govt. of India do not appear to have issued any revised list of STs so far as far as it relates to Karens.