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**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION**

Directorate of Tribal Welfare

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Port Blair, dated the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2003  
April

To

Shri P.L. Yadav,  
Deputy Director,  
GOI, Ministry of Tribal Affairs,  
Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi- 110001.

*Sub: Memorandum dated 18/07/2002 handed over to the Prime Minister during his visit to Andaman & Nicobar Islands by Karen Youth Organisation – Reg.*

Sir,

I am directed to refer your letter No. 12016/35/2001-TA(RL) dated 06/02/2003 addressed to Secretary(TW), A & N Administration regarding the above mentioned subject and to say that as already mentioned in this Administration's letter No. 1-581/91-TW dated 12<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1994 that the Karens were far more developed than even the Nicobarese, let alone the other five Primitive Tribes and the Karens already are getting preference in recruitment to Group-C and D posts under the Administration alongwith the other locals. So classifying them as a ST in respect of this UT would be detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Tribes of this UT. Therefore the Administration did not recommend classification of Karens as ST earlier. The same view is still held by the Administration so far as according ST status to the Karens is concerned as the aboriginal tribes of this UT are much backward when compared to the Karens. Moreover, the Karens are not original inhabitants of this UT unlike the six STs namely - Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens. The Karens were brought to this UT by the British colonial Administration to work as labourers in the forest in 1925-26 and subsequently settled.

In the meanwhile the Karens have opted for Other Backward Class status and the OBC Commission of A & N Islands have since recommended for declaring them as OBC alongwith a few other communities in respect of A&N Islands. The report is being examined by the Administration. Necessary reservation of seats in educational, professional/technical Institutions and reservation in services/ posts under this Administration will be provided after the Karen community alongwith the other recommended communities are declared as OBC in respect of this UT.

Yours faithfully,

Director (TW)  
(T4-168)

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