

After their migration to A & N Islands, they have not been recognised as such in relation to this UT after they have been settled here. By the A & N Administration for the reasons that other than the scheduled and other tribes.

There is no discrimination on the basis of castes existing here. Rather there is homogenous and casteless society. The Bengalee refugees do not suffer from any kind of social disabilities like untouchability, deprivation from use of public places and places of worship and other social boycotts unlike the SCs of other parts of the country. They have equal status in the society here.

With regard to their educational and economic backwardness, it is stated that they are being provided various facilities like free education to their children, seats for higher education/professional courses in the mainland, scholarship, preference in employment in services under the A & N Administration. Besides they have been identified as OBC by the A & N Commission for OBC as per its report submitted to this Administration. Once the report is accepted and they are notified as OBC, they will be provided reservation of jobs in services.

In view of what has been stated above, there appears to be no need of ethnographic details of the Bengali refugees. Moreover, the ethnographic details are not available readily so a survey is to be carried out to collect the same. However, it is understood that their numbers would be brought to the tune of ..... in the A & N Islands.

This issues with the approval of Secretary (TW), A&N Administration.

Yours faithfully,

Encl. : A/A.

Research Officer (TW)  
(CF: T1-refugees)