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T.S.Oberoi (Retd).

The then Lt.Governor was of the opinion that the two castes viz. Chamars and Balmikis be treated as SC in these Islands. The same was mentioned by him in his DO's to then Minister of Labour and Welfare and Minister of Home Affairs alongwith draft Amendment placed 7 to 9/c (Linked file).

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Minister of Labour and Welfare vide his DO dated 25th May, 1990 placed at 15/c (linked file) informed that in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution, any amendment to the existing list of SCs/STs can be made only through an Act of Parliament and the proposed comprehensive revision was under consideration.

As per DO of Shri Ganga Das the Committee for the present desires to know position regarding prevalence of untouchability with regards to Chamars and Balmikis along with their population and migration pattern.

As far as the question of STs is concerned, the Committee desires to know our view for inclusion of Oraon, Munda, Kharia and Dhanka as STs in these Islands.

Coming first to the question of inclusion of Chamars and Balmikis as SCs, the GOI as is evident from the DO of then Minister of Labour and Welfare is already ceased with the issue and no action is required from our side.

As far as the question of untouchability is concerned, this practice is not prevalent in these Islands and we may inform accordingly. Moreover, as the population of these Islands is not classified caste-wise nor any Census carried out caste-wise, we are not in a position to intimate the population/migration pattern.

Secondly regarding inclusion of Oraon and other Castes in STs, all the four sub-castes are termed as Ranchis, they are not the original inhabitants of these Islands unlike the aboriginal tribes. Including any tribe as ST in these Islands would be detrimental to