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(FPP)

were a total of 273 scavengers employed in Port Blair Municipal Council. The Manual scavenging has since been completely abolished, these persons are now rehabilitated and re-deployed elsewhere. Considering the arguments of Director (TW) ^{even all} if ^{were} the above 273 families comprising of members each the total population of scavengers would come to 0.4% of the total population of these islands, which would be approximately 1365 persons.

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Our earlier stand, that in these islands there has been so much intermingling and intermarriages among different castes that, it is difficult to determine who belongs to which caste still holds good. As far as the question of untouchability is concerned it is not prevailing in these islands. We are not in a position to indicate broad migration pattern.

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As far as the question of Munda, Oraon, Kharia and Dhanka are concerned, we have already informed Ministry vide our Fax Message at F/A that they are known as Rajhi in these islands. We have constituted an "Other Backward Class Commission" and these castes can get identified as OBCs when the process for identifying them are started provided they fulfill the criteria.

Draft reply for approval pl.

Ra.
(RAJINDER SINGH)
Secretary (TW)

मुख्य सचिव : जल गोपनीय कक्षा

CS's Conf. Cell

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Sl. No.

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A.S. /
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