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"Untouchability is not practiced in A&N Islands, no castes has been scheduled in relation to this territory and inter-caste marriages are common among the local people.

(97)

With regard to their educational and economic backwardness, it is stated that they are being provided various facilities like free education to their children up to class XII, 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 OBCs 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.

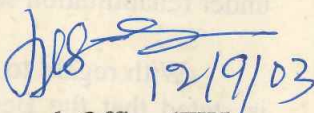
(98)

With regard to ethnographic details of the Bengali refugees, it is stated that in case the Administration is not in favour of granting SC status to the Bengalee refugees, their ethnographic details need not be furnished. Moreover, their ethnographic details are not available readily, so a survey is to be carried out to collect the same.

(99)

If approved, we may send our views to Assistant Secretary (Home) in the above lines. A draft reply is put up for approval please.

(100)


12/9/03
Research Officer(TW)
(C.F.T4-270)

Director (TW)

F.No.1-554/2000-TW

May kindly peruse notes from para 93/N onwards. It is regarding the report / comments of the Administration on the matter relating to recognize Namasudra, Poundras, Bengali refugees as Scheduled Castes in respect of this UT.

(101)

This issue was dealt earlier also i.e. in 1995. The decision of the Administration in the past has been not to propose to recognize the Bengali Refugees i.e. Namasudra, Poundras etc as SCs in this UT on the ground that untouchability does not prevail in these islands and none of the communities including Bengali refugees suffer social disabilities, which could warrant them to notify as SC.

(102)