

(From pre-page)

Discussed with RO(TW). The Vice President, Bengal Association, A&N Islands (BANNI) has stated that the OBC Commission has been commissioned in these islands without commissioning the SC Commission and all the nominated members in OBC Commission are from the only one category of people i.e. III(a) and not a single member from Category III(b) has been nominated in this commission.

In this connection, it is mentioned here that no Scheduled Castes has been declared in relation to this UT by the Govt. of India. As per marginal remarks of RO(TW) recorded in page 2/ante, the reference has been dealt in some other file but the same could not be traceable.

Accordingly, a draft letter is submitted for consideration and approval please.

May please refer to office notes at paras 8-14/n. It is regarding representation dated 21st January, 99 of the Bengal Association of A & N Islands (BAANI) about various problems faced by the people. The Tribal Welfare Department is concerned with the issue relating to classification of the Bengali settlers settled under various approved schemes of the Govt. as SCs.

The A & N Commission for OBCs has been set up by this Administration in terms of the judgment of the supreme court of India delivered on 16th November, 1992 in a writ petition (civil) No. 930 of 1990 (Indira Sawney and others vs. Union of India and others) to identify the OBCs in respect of the A & N Islands, which is mandatory. The process of identification of the OBCs by the commission is in progress.

With regard to setting up of the commission of SCs and STs, it is pointed out that it is beyond the jurisdiction / power of the Administration to set up a commission for SCs and STs as demanded in the representation. However, there is a National Commission for SCs and STs constituted by the Govt. of India, which has jurisdiction all over the country including the A & N Islands. The BAANI may represent their case to the National Commission for SCs and STs for classification as SCs, if they so desire. We may send a reply to AS (GA) in the above lines if approved. A draft reply is placed below for approval please.

Director (TW)

Research Officer (TW)