

Ref: Director (TW)'s minutes at para 132-133/N.

134 It is regarding inclusion of Karen Community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Following the memorandum dated 18/01/2003 submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in January 2003 by the Karen Youth Organization, Webi, Mayabunder, which was referred to this Administration vide letter dated 5th July, 2003 at page 74/C of the Deputy Director, Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, the issue has already been examined and a decision taken with the approval of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor vide para 61-68 / N that there are not sufficient grounds to recommend inclusion of the Karens in the list of Scheduled Tribes of this UT. Accordingly, a reply has been sent to the Govt. of India vide this Administration's letter dated 14./2003 at page 97/C.

135 Subsequently, the Member of Parliament vide his letter dated 12/8/2003 at page 137/C had also written to Lt. Governor inviting a reference to the memorandum dated 18th January 2003 of the Karens submitted to the Prime Minister, requesting for consideration of the issue. A reply has already been sent to him vide this office letter dated 29th September 2003 at page 149-150/C quoting the relevant portion of the Administration's letter dated 1st April, 2002 sent to Govt. of India.

136 He has sent another letter dated 28.9.2003 at page 153/C to Secretary (TW) asking for a copy of our letter dated 14.2003 at page 97/C sent to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. We have already sent a reply to the MP vide this Administration's letter dated 29.9.2003 at pages 149-150/C. Accordingly we may inform him, enclosing a copy of the said letter if approved. A draft reply is put up for approval, please.

137 Further he has sent a reminder dated 28th September 2003 at page 136/C addressed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor stating that he has received a reply from the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs that the Karen Community is yet to become eligible for inclusion in the list of STs. He has further stated that reply of the Ministry is based on the advise of the Administration. As we had sent a report to the Govt. of India vide this office letter dated 01/04/2003 at page 97/C in the matter the reply of the Hon'ble Minister referred to in the MP's letter dated 28/09/2003 at 136/C must have been based on our report. He has requested to look into the matter and take a favourable action.

138 With regard to reconsideration of the issue following the receipt of letter dated 28th September, 2003 at page 136/C of MP and letter dated 1st November, 2003 at page 141/C of the President and others, Karen Youth Organization, it is stated that the issue