regarding inclusion of the Karens in the list of STs of the A&N Islands was examined a few months back and it was held that the aboriginal tribes of this UT were still backward when compared with the Karens and therefore, there were not sufficient grounds to consider the request of the Karens to include them in the list of STs (Please refer to notes at para 66-68/N). Moreover, the Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs has already sent a reply that the Karens are yet to become eligible for inclusion in the list of STs. Since then only a few months have passed, so there is no change in the socio economics status of the Scheduled Tribes of this UT. Therefore there appears to be no grounds to review the above decisions of the Administration. We may send a reply in the above lines, if approved. A draft reply is put up for approval, please.

Submitted please.

Research Officer (TW)

Director/(TW)

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