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No.1-554/2000-TW/ 967

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL WELFARE

Secretariat Complex, Port Blair- 744 101

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Port Blair, dated the 3rd Sept, 2002.

To

The Secretary(PGC),
A&N Administration,
Port Blair.

cct,

Sub:-Representation dated 6th September, 2002 of the President of Karen Youth organization, Webi Village, Mayabunder regarding enclosure on the Karen in the list of STs in A&N Islands.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your U.O No. 1973/2002-PGC(GA) dated 16.9.2002 regarding the above mentioned subject and to say that there are six scheduled Tribes Viz- the Onges, Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens in the A&N Islands. The Karens are not the aboriginal tribe of this UT unlike the six STs mentioned above, but it is a tribe originated from Burma. They were brought to this UT by the colonial Administration during 1925-26 to work as labourers in the forest. They were allowed settle in pockets in Mayabunder, Tehsil. Since then they have continued live to there.

The Karens had earlier applied to Govt. of India for granting them ST status and in reply to their letter, the Govt. of India had sent a reply vide their letter No.12016/30/95-3CD(R.Cell) dated 12.7.1995 (a xerox copy is enclosed) stating that their proposal was being considered as per the criteria laid down in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of STs.

In the meanwhile, the Karens have opted for OBCs status vide letter application dated 17.8.2000 (a xerox copy is enclosed) submitted to the A&N Commission for OBCs and their request has been considered by the Commission by recommending them as OBC. The report of the Commission is being examined separately.

Encl:- A/A

Yours faithfully,

Research Officer(TW)
(CF.No.T4-175)

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