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In this regard, it is submitted that in the tribal reserve area in Harmander Bay, there are no individual land records as the entire land is held by the community and there is no concept of individual ownership. Therefore, a certification of the tribal captain who is the head of the community is taken prior to issuance of ST certificates.

4. What is the time limit prescribed for issuance of the community certificates?

**Ans.** The limit for issuance of ST Certificate is not more than 15 days from the date of making application.

5. In case a ST person belonging to another State has settled in your State on account of his posting as a result of cadre allotment (in the case of all India Services or otherwise) or on account of acquisition of his land for some development project and the consequent decision to settle him in your State, whether the State Govt. have issued any instructions for issue of community certificates to such a person or his family members if the Scheduled Tribe to which he belongs is also a Scheduled Tribe in your State? If not whether the State Govt. proposes to issue instructions to that effect or any other instructions to provide them to benefits available to a Scheduled Tribe?

**Ans.** Not applicable.

6. If the certificates of any ST candidates on the basis of which he/she has already been appointed in the Govt. are sent to the district authorities by any appointing authority or institution/institute for confirmation of the genuineness of those certificates by the issuing authority, whether the process of verification regarding his or her tribal status is again gone through as in the case of a person applying for the first time for issuance of a community/tribe certificate, it is being done on the basis of the records available with the issuing authority. (This information is required as it has been brought to the notice of the Commission that the district authorities are re-undertaking the verification of the claim of belonging to a Scheduled Tribe on receipt of a reference from an appointing authority for verification of the genuineness of the community certificates and that this has been causing considerable harassment to those ST persons who have already been appointed.)

**Ans.** No instances for verifications of tribal status of a ST candidate to confirm the genuineness of the certificate has been received and therefore, question does not arise. However, when ever such instances will be brought into the notice of the District Administration, the certificates shall be verified based on the documents and other material evidences given at the time of issuance of the ST certificates by the issuing authority.

Yours faithfully

  
Assistant Commissioner (S)  
For Deputy Commissioner (SA)

Copy to: The Special Secretary (TW), A & N Administration, Port Blair with reference to D.O. No. 1-546-TW/Vol.II/296 dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

  
Assistant Commissioner (S)  
For Deputy Commissioner (SA)