

Lt (Retd) Bhopinder Singh
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D.O. No. 1-877/2006-TW

10th December 2007

Dear Sh. Shrinaj V. Patilji,

I am drawing your attention to the letter dated 26th February 2007 sent by my Chief Secretary to the Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, regarding percentage of reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the case of direct recruitment to Group 'C' & 'D' posts under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. The Chief Secretary had to intervene, as there had been no response from Ministry of Home Affairs to any of our earlier references from the Secretary (Tribal Welfare), A & N Administration, copies of which are attached. Unfortunately, there has been no response even to the Chief Secretary's letter and subsequent reminders, and the matter is hanging fire for the last one and a half year.

The gist of the proposal forwarded to your Ministry is reduction in the reservations for Scheduled Tribe posts in these Islands from 12% to 8%. Though detailed justification has been communicated in our correspondence, it is worthwhile to reiterate the same. Briefly, the normal practice is to peg the reservation for Scheduled Tribe candidates at the level of their population percentage. As per 1981 Census, the Scheduled Tribe population in these Islands was 12%, hence the reservation for Scheduled Tribe candidates was kept at 12%. However the Scheduled Tribe population in these Islands has come down to 8.2% of the overall population as per the 2001 Census, therefore it was proposed to reduce the reservation of posts for Scheduled Tribe candidates to 8%. The Ministry of Home Affairs has appreciated this logic and in July 2005, reduced the number of posts in 'A' & 'B' category cases pertaining to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to 8%. It is, therefore, expected that it should not have any objection in doing the same for 'C' & 'D' category as well.