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PUC is letter No. 17015/36/2008-RIC dated 28/9/2010 from the Joint Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi addressed to the Secretary (TW), A & N Administration, regarding Memorandum of demands presented by the National Delegation of Valmiki Community to the Prime Minister. We have been requested to furnish comments on points relevant to this Union Territory to the Ministry at the earliest.

Regarding this, it is stated that due to the special circumstances of the settlements of these islands, most of the local population did not identify as belonging to any specific caste. No Scheduled Caste community has been notified in A & N Islands and the practice of untouchability is non-existent in these Islands. None of the communities suffer any caste discrimination or they are barred from the use of public places. Further no data is available relating to specific castes. In these circumstances, identification of a particular caste or community based on their castes at mainland, social grouping, language, dress and food habits etc. is not feasible as they are not having any such distinct identity in these islands. The present generation and local population do not have any characteristics and identification as belongs to any specific caste. The policy of A & N Administration is to maintain existing social harmony and continuing a casteless society in these islands.

As far as ST reservation is concerned; A & N Administration is following the policy of recruiting members from amongst the STs of these islands (the original inhabitants of Andaman and Nicobar Islands). The Govt. of India has notified six aborigines of these islands namely the Great Andmanese, the Onges, the Jarawa, the Sentinelese, the Shompens and the Nicobarese as Scheduled Tribes in relation to Union Territory vide constitutional Order No. 58 dated 31.3.1959. Recruitment to the Group 'C' & 'D' posts is being made by this Administration and the reservation is 12% for direct recruitment and 7.5% for promotion for STs.

Similarly the A & N Commission for OBC has identified the Pre-1942 settlers of A & N Islands comprising of the (i) Local Borneo (ii) Bhatus or the Bhandus (iii) the Moplahs (iv) the Karens, and (v) Post - 1942 Bengali Settlers settled in the islands under various rehabilitation schemes of the Central Government as Other Backward Classes vide Administration's Notification No.343/2005/F.No.8-3/2003-TW dated 16th December, 2005 and as further amended vide Administration's Notification No.75/2006/ F.No.8-3/2003-TW dated 19th April, 2006 and these communities are extended the facilities of reservation of 38% jobs in Group 'C' & 'D' Posts in the services of the A&N Administration. Since no Scheduled Caste has been notified in this UT, the SC reservation is not followed.

If approved, we may inform the position to the Ministry. Accordingly, a draft letter is placed opposite for approval please.

Sr. Research Officer
F. No.: T6-RG)

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