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The Bengali Settlers:

All Bengali Settlers in A & N Islands are exclusively Hindus having distinct social and cultural identity like other Hindus in mainland of India; they have definite customs, heritage with gotras. They belong to various castes viz., Brahmins, Kshatryas (Kayasthas), Baishyas and Sudras like any other Hindu Community. About 90% Bengali Settlers belong to namasudra, pondro kshatrya and other sudra communities. All live in the remote, isolated rural areas of outlying islands. Most of them are cultivators, labourers or fishermen. They are the under privileged community.

In the recently conducted Population Survey in A & N Islands the Hindus belonging to various linguistic communities including Bengali Settlers were not allowed to mention declare their castes which was completely unconstitutional. The prescribed Census Form was modified accordingly by the Administration.

Gross injustice has been done to the exclusively Bengali Hindu Settlers mostly belonging to nama-sudra, pondro-kshatriya and other Sudra communities (castes). These dalit Hindus of A & N Islands are eligible to be declared as Scheduled Castes. But they have been declared as OBCs by the A & N Administration and the GOI.

The Pre-'42 Local Borns:

Majority of the people belonging to the Pre-'42 Local Born Community are Muslims and Christians. Their total population by all means, may not be more than 35 thousand only. Moplas Muslims are the largest community amongst the Penal Settlers or the Pre-'42 Local Borns. Bhantus are mostly converted to Muslims and Christians. Total population of the Pre-'42 Local Born Hindus may be about 4 to 5 thousand only. The Pre-'42 Local Born Hindus are actually mixed and their original cultural identity not known. They are casteless Hindus and Inter-religion marriages are very common amongst them. All the Penal Settlers live in and around Port Blair town. Most of them are employed in the local Administration; few are businessmen. They own properties worth crores in and around Port Blair. They enjoy all the

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