

schemes of Central Government has been notified as Other Backward Classes in respect of A & N Islands vide Andaman & Nicobar Gazette Notification No. 354 dated 16/12/2005 and as amended vide Notification No. 78 dated 19/04/2006.

3. Step-brotherly treatment to the Bengalis of Andaman by the Govt. of India.

As per the policy laid down by the Govt. of India in respect of SC migrated from one State to another, they are not eligible for SC status here. No Scheduled Castes has been notified in these Islands and none of the communities including Bengalis suffers any social disabilities, which warrant them to be classified as Scheduled Castes.

4. Ethnographic details of Bengali settlers

The Bengali settlers who are also stated to be belonging to SC category in the mainland have been settled in these islands under the approved rehabilitation schemes of the Government, they too would have been SCs in the State of their origin i.e. Bengal, had they not been brought here for settlement. As per the policy laid down by the Govt. of India, SCs/STs migrated from one State to another, are also not eligible for SC/ST status in the place of migration. So, the Bengali settlers are not eligible for SC status here. The un-touchability is not practiced in these Islands and none of the communities including Bengalis suffer any type of social disabilities which warrant them to be classified as Scheduled Castes. They have equal status in the society in these Islands.

In A & N Islands no census has been conducted since 1931 onwards to enumerate caste wise population. Therefore, the ethnographic information on communities like Namasudra, Pundria etc. in regard to these islands is not available. It is advisable that this status quo be maintained, to avoid divisive tendencies amongst the harmoniously co-habiting communities of these Islands.

5. Special Provisions in the Indian Constitution for Scheduled castes, reservation in Govt. jobs, social protection.

The Pre-1942 settlers of A & N Islands comprising of the (i) Local Borns (ii) Bhatus or the Bhantus (iii) the Moplahs and (iv) the Karens and (v) Post - 1942 Bengali Settlers settled in the islands under various rehabilitation schemes of the Central Government are notified as Other Backward Classes and are eligible for 38% reservation in recruitment to Group-C and D posts under the Administration. The SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is being implementing in the UT of A & N Islands but the Act is not extending the provision to Bengali Settlers as they are not Scheduled Caste in these Islands. As stated above, the benefit of OBC reservation in Govt. job and for higher studies is extended to Bengali communities.