

Since the migrated tribes are advanced than the native tribes of A & N Islands, their inclusion in the scheduled list of these islands may cut down the cent percent opportunities being enjoyed by indigenous tribes. Once the reservation benefits are extended to the migrant STs, the STs of other States and UTs will come forward to claim the benefit of reservation under the A & N Administration. The STs of this UT being more backward will not be able to compete with the advanced migrant STs thereby losing their legitimate right of reservation.

#### ix) Recognition of Scheduled Caste

A & N islands were inhabited only by the aboriginal tribes prior to the founding of penal settlement. This settlement grew over the decades even after independence and the society that developed in this union territory is a unique by itself wherein caste and creed have not been the deciding factor for the Administration. In these islands so far no scheduled caste community has been declared and the practice of untouchability is non-existent or none of the communities suffer any caste discrimination or they are barred from the use of public places.

In view of the position explained above, the issue of inclusion any migrant community in to ST category or SC category is a policy matter with a long-term consequences on the interest of native tribes and the present casteless society.