

(47)

51	Recognition of Scheduled Tribe status to immigrant STs in Andamans	MP- A&N	<p>The initial taming of the wild territory of Andaman Islands began under the experienced hands of the hardy tribal men and women from Bihar (now Jharkhand), Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh(including Chhatisgarh), who were brought in as contract labour in PWD and Forest Departments mainly. These, commonly known as 'Ranchis' began with the small number of 400 families in 1918 brought by the British masters to provide valuable timber as well as to prepare their settlements with human living conditions. Progressively, with the increase of labour requirement for settlement of large populations by the independent Indian government, the population of 'Ranchis' stands at 70000 i.e more than 17% of the total population of A&amp;N islands. The 'Ranchis' are mainly Munda, Oraon, Santhal, Lohar, Kharia, Ho, etc. Scheduled Tribes from the states of West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh who have left their land and families to work for development of the islands and have stayed here for long periods, settled down with families. Basically shy in nature, they have not demanded for much unlike their counterparts migrated from other parts of the country, who have vocalized their Demands and got lots of facilities.</p> <p>Proposal - The Scheduled Tribe status of these 'Ranchis' be recognized as ST from A&amp;N Islands and all positive bias extended to STs be also made available to them.</p> <p><u>Point for decision</u> MHA to convey the views of the Govt. on the subject to the Hon'ble MP.</p>
----	--	---------	---