

(48)  
(15)

A similar drastic mainstreaming treatment be given to the Jarawa population to ensure their survival against the adverse effects of unregulated contacts with the mainstream.

#### VIII. **Recognition of Scheduled Tribe status to immigrant STs in Andamans.**

Scg (100)  
Di (100)

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 Chhattisgarh), 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&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 Chhattisgarh 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 vocalised their Demands and got lots of facilities.

**Demand** – The Scheduled Tribe status of these 'Ranchis' be recognised as ST from A&N Islands and all positive bias extended to STs be also made available to them.

Scg (100)  
Di (100)

#### IX. **Recognition of Scheduled Caste** – Individuals and families of Scheduled Castes originated from the states of mainland India have migrated to the A&N Islands and have been employed in activities traditionally in the domain of SCs in the mainland states in addition to other jobs. In West Bengal, EPDP (East Pakistan Displaced Persons) of backward status akin to SCs have been declared Namasudra SC. In A&N Islands the SC immigrants also include such backward