

Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi (Fax No. 23094103)

Sub:- Matter raised by Shri Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of
Parliament, during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha : reg.
Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.U-16014/4/2011-ANL dated
3/6/2011 on the above mentioned subject.

In this context, it is stated that in this UT there are six aboriginal tribes namely the Great Andmanese, the Onges, the Jarawa, the Sentinelese, the Shompens and the Nicobarese, who are notified as the Scheduled Tribes in respect of the UT of A & N Islands. The Chotanagpuri Tribals -Orans, Mundas, Kharias, Santhalis, Lohras, Chik-Bariks and others (commonly known here as Ranchi community) are not included in the STs list of these UT as the people belonging to this community are migrated to Andaman Islands in the past and they are the STs in relation to their state of origin ie. Bihar, Jharkhand etc. As far as reservation is concerned, the UT Administration follows the policy of the Govt. of India. As per the instructions contained in the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi letter No. BC-16014/1/82-SC&BCD-1 dated 6th August 1984, "the SC/ST person on migration from the State of his origin to another State will not lose his status as SCs/STs but he will be entitled to the concessions/benefits admissible to the SCs/STs from the State of his origin and not from the State where he has migrated". Therefore, the people of migrant communities who are not the original inhabitants of these islands, as like the aboriginal tribes of Andaman and Nicobar islands, are not covered under the ST notification.

Similarly, no Scheduled Castes has been notified in this Union Territory as the caste system is not prevailing in these Islands. Practice of untouchability is non-existent in these islands and none of the community suffers any caste discrimination. The policy of A & N Administration is to maintain the existing social harmony and continuing a casteless society in these Islands.

Further, the Census was conducted in the island territory as was done all over the country in prescribed method.

Yours faithfully,