

backward and remote in all respects.

While the nama-sudra, pondro-kshatriya and other sudra communities have been enlisted as Scheduled Castes by the GOI for West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, etc. But the same is not being done for the similar or the same castes of A & N Islands. The GOI showing double standard in this regard and the Bengalis of Andaman are treated step-brotherly by the Government of India.

Moreover, the plans and Programmes of the GOI which benefit the Bengali Settlers are usually rejected, delayed or not considered at all viz., Regular shipping services between Mayabunder and Kolkata, Sub-division at Rangat, Tahsil offices at Kadamtala, Billiground and Kisori Nagar, Degree College at Rangat, Polytechnic at Diglipur, separation of all Bengali Medium Schools from other medium schools, posting of teachers in the Bengali medium schools, etc.

On the other hand, the plans and programmes which are against the interests of the Bengali Settlers of A & N Islands are implemented with much more vigour, viz., declaration of Buffer Zone, restriction of vehicles on ATR (before closure), implementation of the Reports of the Sakaria Commission and destroying plantations, orchards, bulldozing about-to-be harvested corps by misinterpretation of the Apex Court verdict, etc.

The Bengali Settlers are deprived, oppressed, suppressed and harassed in A & N Islands.