

along with much advanced urbanized and rich Penal Settlers comprising mostly the Muslims, Christians and a few thousands of casteless and mixed Hindus appear politically motivated decision of the Administration and GOI. The consequences of such decision have not been critically analyzed and it lacks foresightedness which may prove to be against the interest of the nation in the distant future.

The Bengali Settlers, mostly rural dalit Hindus, are being exploited since their settlement in Andaman by others including the Penal settlers. The exploitation is for dominance in all respects. The culture of the oppressed community is the most affected. Hence, Bengali Settlers of Andaman, mostly the rural poor dalit Hindus, will gradually lose their social and cultural identity after a few generations due to exploitations for dominance as the rural dalit Hindu Bengali Settlers are very much susceptible to for their extreme backwardness, poverty and lack of education, awareness and exposure. The bright example of such merger and conversion in Andaman are Bhandus, Ranchis and dalit Hindu South Indians. They have been merged with the Penal Settlers and mostly converted to Muslims, Christians or mixed casteless Hindus. Krans have been converted to Christianity and are getting merged gradually with with Penal Settlers.

7. Therefore, most of the intellectuals and the general public of these islands including those of the Pre-'42 Local Borns in general justify the demands of the Bengali Settlers for Scheduled Castes. They justify rationally and impartially that 27% and 15% of the government jobs to be reserved exclusively for the OBCs, that is, the Pre-'42 Local Borns and the SCs, that is, the Bengali Settlers respectively so that 42% reservation may be availed in combination by both the communities as against 38% at present for the OBCs only at present.