

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5366
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010
STATUS OF SC TO MIGRANTS
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the migrants of erstwhile East Pakistan/Bangladesh who had been rehabilitated/ settled in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, have been conferred the status of 'Scheduled Caste' in Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any proposal is being actively considered in this regard by the A&N administration;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any demand by Associations/Ambedkar Bodista Association/BAANI, in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (g) the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRID. NAPOLEON)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Criteria followed for consideration of specification of a caste as a Scheduled Caste is, extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

Andaman & Nicobar Administration has informed that practice of untouchability is non-existent in the Islands and none of the communities suffer any caste discrimination.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The demand for status of Scheduled Castes to migrants was examined by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in the light of extant instructions contained in letter No. BC-16014/1/82-SC+BCD-1 dated 06.8.1984, of Ministry of Home Affairs, and accordingly such people of migrant communities are not considered for SC status, by the Administration.