

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.5339 of 2015

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Ram Chandra Sah son of late Ramadhar Sah, resident of village-Dhankara P.S.
Sasaram (M) District Rohtas.

.... Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Principal Secretary, Department of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Bihar Patna.
2. The Chief Conservator of forest, Patna.
3. The District Magistrate, Rohtas at Sasaram.
4. The Authorized Officer cum Divisional Forest Officer Rohtas at Sasaram.
5. The District Forest Officer, Rohtas at Sasaram.
6. The Forest Ranger, Sasaram Forest Area, Sasaram (Rohtas).

.... Respondent/s

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Appearance:

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Raghunandan Kumar Singh, Advocate

For the Respondent/s : Mr. Kumar Alok, SC-8

Dr. Raj Kumar Singh, AC to SC-8

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JYOTI SARAN

ORAL JUDGMENT

Date: 18-05-2015

Learned counsel for the parties are present.

The limited relief prayed by the petitioner in this writ petition is for a direction to the appellate authority under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, who in the present matter would be the District Magistrate, Rohtas at Sasaram, for expeditious disposal of the appeal filed on behalf of the petitioner. While praying as such the petitioner has also prayed for provisional release of his vehicle pending adjudication of the appeal. In this writ petition, the confiscation proceeding has been decided against the petitioner and the appeal is pending.



The grievance of the petitioner is that the appeal is pending before the appellate authority and there being no sign of its expeditious disposal, the vehicle which is subject matter of the appellate proceedings would be rendered obsolete since it is kept under open sky and thus subjected to the vagaries of weather as well as wear and tear.

The petitioner in this case has preferred Forest (Confiscation) Appeal No.04 of 2014 being aggrieved by the order of the confiscation passed by the Divisional Forest Officer-cum-Authorized Officer, Rohtas at Sasaram in Confiscation Case No. 01 of 2013 arising from Dehri (Indrapuri) P.S. Case No. 338 of 2012.

Having heard learned counsel for the parties and taking into consideration the limited prayer made by the petitioner, this writ petition is disposed of with the direction to the District Magistrate, Rohtas at Sasaram-cum-Appellate Authority under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to consider and dispose of the appeal of the petitioner in accordance with law and after giving opportunity of hearing to the contesting parties, expeditiously and preferably within three months from the date of receipt/production of a copy of the order. In case for any reason the appeal is not disposed of within the period stipulated hereinabove, the appellate authority would consider the prayer of the petitioner for provisional release of his vehicle in question and

dispose of the same within one month thereafter in accordance with law.

With the observations/directions aforementioned, this writ petition is accordingly disposed of.

(Jyoti Saran, J)

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