

31.7.2007

Present: Mr. Pawan Guatam, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. P.M. Negi, Deputy Advocate General, for the respondent.

Mr. Negi submits that the Authorized Officer under the Indian Forests Act has already been approached for the confiscation of the vehicle plus the disposal of *Khair* wood. In this view of the matter, therefore, it is not proper for this Court to interfere with respect to the release of the vehicle in question. The Authorized Officer is directed to dispose of the matter with respect to the confiscation or release of the vehicle as well as the disposal of the *Khair* wood very very expeditiously and in any event before 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2007. The petitioner is permitted to approach the Authorized Officer with a request for the release of the vehicle. If such a request is made within two weeks from today, the Authorized Officer is directed to consider and dispose of the same on its merits and in accordance with law.

The petition is dismissed.

July 31, 2007.  
(rc)

**(V.K. Gupta), C.J.**