

2. 30.04.2021 This matter is taken up through video conferencing mode.

2. Heard Mr. Sanjib Mohanty, learned counsel for the Petitioner and Mr. Swayambhu Mishra, learned Addl. Standing Counsel for the State-Opposite Parties.

3. In this writ petition, the petitioner calls in question the illegal action of the Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Division, Deogarh-Opposite Party No.2 in not conducting the joint verification and not issuing T.T. Permit on the application filed by him under Annexure-3.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the application in Form No.III under Rule 7(a) of Orissa Timber and other Forest Produce Transit Rules, 1980 (for short 'the Rules') is complete in all respect. The Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Division, Deogarh has also communicated the Range Officer, Barkote Forest Range to conduct the joint verification. But, no step has yet been taken to conduct the joint verification and to dispose of the application for grant of T.T. Permit.

5. Sub-rule (8) of Rule 7 of the Rules provides for specific time for different steps to be undertaken by the authority. The authorities mentioned therein must act in conformity with the provisions of the Rules. In the case at hand, it is submitted that the Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division, Deogarh has not taken any action although the application in Form-III, complete in all respect, is pending since long.

6. Considering the submission and innocuous nature of the prayer made by the petitioner, this Court directs the

Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division, Deogarh-  
opp. party no.2 to dispose of the application in Form-III  
under Annexure-2 within a period of six months from the  
date of production of certified copy of this order, if the same  
is still pending.

7. This writ petition is accordingly disposed of.

8. As the restrictions due to resurgence of COVID-19  
situation are continuing, learned counsel for the parties may  
utilize a printout of the order available in the High Court's  
website, at par with certified copy, subject to attestation by  
the concerned Advocate, in the manner prescribed vide  
Court's Notice No. 4587 dated 25th March, 2020 as modified  
by Court's Notice No. 4798 dated 15th April, 2021.

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**K.R. MOHAPATRA,J.**