

PIL 27/2013  
BEFORE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE T. VAIPHEI  
AND  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJIT BHUYAN

(T. Vaiphei, J)

Heard Mr. K. Surana, the learned Standing Counsel, Gauhati High Court and Mr. R.K. Bora, the learned Standing Counsel for Forest Department. Also heard Mr. Dibya Dhar Gogoi, the Divisional Forest Officer, Guwahati Wildlife Division, Kamrup, Guwahati, who has personally appeared before this Court in terms of the order of this Court.

The Officer personally has explained to us the difficulties faced by the Wildlife Division in not submitting their survey report in time, which he attributes to unseasonal rain and other official duties, which hampered the survey work. He desires that he should be given another four months' time w.e.f. 16.10.2016 to complete the survey and submit the report.

It is quite possible that some problems such as the engagement of the officials for other official purposes as well as incessant rains did hamper the survey activities of the Division. Moreover, from the preliminary report submitted by the respondent authorities, it is however, seen that survey for relaying the consecutive pillars had been going on since then, which have been completed in December, 2015; they have completed up to the pillar position No.17 (total 12.5 km approximately out of about 34.6 km of perimeter of Block-I of the WLS). According to the Divisional Forest Officer, Guwahati Wildlife Division, Kamrup, Guwahati, only 29% of the work is yet to be completed, which can be completed if another 4(four) months' time is granted w.e.f. 16th October, 2016.

We have given our anxious consideration to the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the Divisional Forest Officer, Guwahati Wildlife Division, Kamrup, Guwahati. In our opinion, considering the fact that only 29% of the works are yet to be completed, the respondent authorities must ensure that the survey is completed within 31.12.2016. The survey report is expected from the respondent authorities by then. No stone should be left unturned by the respondent authorities to complete the exercise before 31.12.2016. No further time will be granted hereafter.

The personal appearance of Mr. Dibya Dhar Gogoi, the Divisional Forest Officer, Guwahati Wildlife Division, Kamrup, Guwahati is dispensed with until further orders.

List it again on 04.01.2017.