

The Odisha Gazette

**EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

No. 2202 CUTTACK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013/KARTIKA 22, 1935

No. 22328—10F(TR)-113/2013-F. & E.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RESOLUTION
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The 31st October 2013

It has been brought to the notice of Government that private landowners whose trees have been uprooted or damaged in the recent cyclone 'Phailin' are facing difficulties in obtaining transit permits for disposal of such trees as joint verification along with Revenue Department officials could not be carried out due to engagement of Revenue Department officials in the post-cyclone relief and enumeration work. This is causing hardship to the landowners in protecting and disposing the trees damaged in the cyclone.

2. After careful consideration, Government have been pleased to decide as follows :—

- (i) In respect of applications for removal of timber and firewood obtained from the trees damaged or destroyed by the cyclone 'Phailin' the D.F.O. shall, without any delay, cause conduct of verification, enumeration and enquiry into ownership of plots/trees in the presence of local Ward Member/Councillor and the owners of the plots adjoining the plot of the applicant and proceed further with the process of issuing transit permit in the cases where there is no dispute on ownership. The reference to the Tahasildar and joint verification in the presence of Revenue Department officials as prescribed under clauses (a), (b) and (c) of Rule 7(8) of the Odisha Timber and other Forest Produce Transit Rules, 1980 will not be applicable to such cases, provided there is no dispute on the ownership of plots/trees.
- (ii) Transit Permits in accordance to the relaxed procedure as prescribed in (i) above may be issued only on and up to the 15th December 2013 and shall bear a seal "CYCLONE DAMAGED TREES". These transit permits will be valid only for transport of timber within the State.

(iii) List of all transit permits issued as per the above procedure will be furnished by the D.F.O. to the Tahasildar concerned as well as to the R.C.C.F.

3. Government have also been pleased to decide that the Odisha Timber and other Forest Produce Transit Rules, 1980 will be amended with retrospective effect to empower Government to relax the applicability of the rules for such category of cases, in such manner and for such period as may be considered by it to be necessary in public interest.

ORDER—Ordered that the Resolution be published in the extraordinary issue of *Odisha Gazette*.

By order of the Governor

R. K. SHARMA

Principal Secretary to Government