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**(1994) 03 GAU CK 0014**  
**In the Gauhati High Court**  
**Case No : Civil Rule No. 1500 of 1992**

Bishwanath Boro

APPELLANT

Vs

State of Assam and Others

RESPONDENT

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**Date of Decision :** 18-03-1994

**Acts Referred:**

Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 — Rule 21

**Citation :** AIR 1995 Guw 46

**Hon'ble Judges :** J.N. Sharma, J

**Bench :** Single Bench

**Advocate :** P.J. Deka and R.D. Mazumdar, for the Appellant; B. Choudhury, D1.G.A., Assam, for the Respondent

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## Judgement

J.N. Sarma, J.—The admitted fact is that the K.P. Patta No. 131 with Dag No. 291 for an area of 4 Bs. 1 K. stands in the name of the petitioner and the petitioner is the landlord in respect of this land. The petitioner on the land has 68 Teak (Sagoon) Trees.

2. The Rule 21 of the Rules under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, provides for royalty on timber. Rule 21(d) provides as follows:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding clauses, trees which were planted, or began to grow, on the land during the pendency of a lease shall be exempted from all payment of royalty even if sold, bartered, mortgaged, given or otherwise transferred or removed for transfer. When land has been settled continuously for twenty years, all trees standing thereon shall be presumed to have been planted, or to have begun to grow, during the pendency of the lease".

3. The petitioner contends that these tree's were planted by him and they grew on the land during the pendency of the lease and this being the position, the petitioner shall be exempted from payment of all royalty even if sold, bartered, mortgaged, given or otherwise transferred or removed or transferred.

4. In the instant case the land belongs to the petitioner is also evident from the

Annexure "D" to the writ application. As the land belongs to the petitioner and as trees were grown by the petitioner, the petitioner is not liable to pay any royalty. Accordingly, this writ application is allowed declaring that by virtue of Rule 21(d), the petitioner is not bound to pay any royalty on the teak tree (Sagoon Tree) standing on this land.

5. I have heard Shri P. J. Deka, Learned Counsel for the petitioner and Shri B. Choudhury, Learned Addl. Senior Govt. Advocate.

6. Shri Choudhury submits that this land was claimed to be the forest reserved land and that is why the Forest Department had a right to claim royalty on the trees. As found by me earlier that this is the patta land of petitioner and the petitioner claimed to have grown the trees by himself, this argument of Shri Choudhury is not tenable.

7. This disposes of the writ application. Order accordingly.