GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ******

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From

Dr. Taradatt

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To

Secretary, Board of Revenue, Odisha, Cuttack

All RDCs

All Collectors

All Sub-Collectors

All Tehsildars

Sub: Issue of certified copy of manufactured records – consequences - action to be taken.

Madam/Sir,

It has come to notice of Government that unscrupulous litigants, relying on certified copy of orders of Revenue Offices in different revenue Records, are filing frivolous petitions in different Courts claiming title on government land. The Tehsil office which reportedly issued the certified copy is at times unable to produce the original record for the reason that the same is misplaced or non-existent and State is unable to protect its interest for such reason. Often the copy application Register of relevant period is lost. Since certified copy is a secondary evidence and the primary evidence is lost, the litigants take advantage of the loss and State loses the property worth many crores.

After a detailed study into the matter it is inferred that the unscrupulous litigants are tampering/hushing up the Registers of Tehsils and other Revenue Offices, inserting manufactured case records and obtaining certified copy of such fraudulent/ manufactured records taking advantage of loopholes in the manual record maintenance system. In all cases where such certified copies

are issued, the officials in charge of such issuance are directly involved in the crime and it is construed as an attempt to grab the government land.

It was therefore decided that in all such cases the Tehsildar and officials who issued the record are squarely responsible and the litigant has to prove the genuineness of his claim otherwise, beyond the order contained in the certified copy, in view of the huge financial loss to the State due to loss of record.

Further it was decided that when similar matters are coming before any Court of Law, the facts relating to the case may be brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Courts in aforesaid perspective in view of the fraud by litigants in the State having dragged the attention of different Courts and Government and inference of fraud may be prayed.

Yours faithfully,

Additional Chief Secretary to Government