

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR**

Friday, the 28th day of November 2025 / 7th Agrahayana, 1947

SSCR NO. 42 OF 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD- SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSSIONER
REPORT-SM.NO.42/2025-REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, SABARIMALA
REGARDING ILLEGAL SALE OF "ADIYA SISHTAM GHEE" AT MELSANTHI ROOMS AT SANNIDHANAM
AND MALIKAPPURAM AND IMPROPER PACKING OF HONEY FOR VARIOUS POOJAS-SUO MOTU
PROCEEDINGS INITIATED-REG:**

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. STATE OF KERALA**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001
- 2. THE CHIEF POLICE COORDINATOR**
(ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE)
(POLICE HEADQUARTERS), SANNIDHANAM, SABARIMALA,
PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN-689713
- 3. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE,
KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695003
- 4. DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER**
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE,
KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695003
- 5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O, PATHANAMTHITTA-689662

6. CHIEF VIGILANCE & SECURITY OFFICER

**(SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE), TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEADQUARTERS,
NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695003**

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR

SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

**THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 28.11.2025, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:**



RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V. & K.V. JAYAKUMAR, JJ.

SSCR No. 42 OF 2025

Dated this the 28th day of November, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V., J.

The instant report is submitted by the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala, concerning the illegal sale of "Adi Sishtam Ghee" in the rooms of the Melsanthis and Ulkazhakam at Sannidhanam and Malikappuram. The Commissioner has further highlighted the improper and unhygienic packing of honey in containers intended for various poojas.

2. We have carefully perused the Report of the Special Commissioner, prepared pursuant to the inspection carried out by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer in the rooms occupied by the Melsanthis and Ulkazhakam. From the materials placed before us, it appears that a stealth inspection has revealed a disturbing practice, wherein "Adi Sishtam Ghee" was being sold by the Saha Saanthies to devotees in plastic cans for a consideration of Rs. 100/-. This practice is not merely irregular; it is reprehensible and wholly impermissible, particularly when the Travancore Devaswom Board itself undertakes the sale of Aadiya Sishtam Ghee in a regulated and accountable manner. Such clandestine activities undermine the sanctity of the rituals, compromise transparency, and create opportunities for exploitation of unsuspecting devotees. We are of the considered view that strict and immediate measures must be taken to ensure that such misconduct

does not recur at Sannidhanam. Appropriate action shall also be initiated against the individuals who have engaged in these unauthorised activities.

In this context, we issue the following directions:

- (i) The Melsanthis of Sannidhanam and Malikappuram, and the Santhis of Ulkazhakam shall forthwith refrain from collecting ghee from devotees after performing Neyyabhishakam and from selling such ghee for consideration.
- (ii) There will be a direction to the Melsanthis of Sannidhanam and Malikappuram, and the Santhis of Ulkazhakam, to immediately hand over all ghee stored in vessels, jars, or any other containers in their respective rooms to the competent authority of the Travancore Devaswom Board.
- (iii) Ghee Abhishekams shall be performed only against valid Neyyabhishekam tickets issued by the Devaswom, and it shall be strictly ensured that such tickets are issued only in proportion to the number of coconuts offered.
- (iv) The practice of conducting ghee abhishekams after collecting ghee

from devotees at the rooms of the Thantri, Melsanthi, or Ulkzhakam shall stand discontinued with immediate effect.

3. The learned Standing Counsel for the Travancore Devaswom Board shall obtain specific instructions regarding the protocol followed for the handling of "Neyyabhishekam Ghee" at Sannidhanam.

4. We also take note of the fact that the supply of honey has been entrusted to the Regional Agro Industrial Development Cooperative of Kerala Ltd. (RAIDCO), and that honey has been stored in cans with incorrect or misleading labelling. This is wholly unacceptable in view of statutory food safety requirements. RAIDCO shall ensure that honey is retained and supplied only in containers bearing proper FSSAI-compliant labelling and certification.

Post on 03.12.2025.

Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

PS/28/11/25