

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR
Wednesday, the 8th day of October 2025 / 16th Aswina, 1947
SSCR NO. 21 OF 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER
REPORT - SM.NO.21/2025 -MONTHLY REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER,
SABARIMALA REGARDING THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING CHINGHAM MASA
POOJA FROM AUGUST 16, 2025 TO AUGUST 21, 2025 (1201ME CHINGHAM MASAM) AT
SABARIMALA SREE DHARMA SASTHA TEMPLE - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG:**

PETITIONER

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. STATE OF KERALA**
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001
- 2. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCOD, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003
- 3. THE DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER**
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS, NANTHANCOD,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
- 4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER,**
SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA - 689662
- 5. CHIEF VIGILANCE & SECURITY OFFICER (SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE)**
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCOD, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003



6. CHIEF POLICE COORDINATOR
(ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE) (POLICE HEADQUARTERS)
SABARIMALA, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689713
7. RANNI PERUNAD GRAMA PANCHAYAT
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, RANNI PERUNAD, PERUNAD,
PATHANAMTHITTA - 689711
*ADDL.R8 IMPEADED
8. THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
SABARIMALA MASTER PLAN, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN,
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695003.
*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL.R8 VIDE ORDER DATED 27/08/2025
IN SSCR NO.21/2025.
*ADDL.R9 IMPEADED
9. THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER (DFO),
KARIKULAM, RANNI, PATHANAMTHITTA – 689672
*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL 9TH RESPONDENT VIDE ORDER
DATED 08/10/2025 IN SSCR.NO.21/2025

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SR.GOVERNMENT PLEADER
BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR SABARIMALA
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER
BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF SABARIMALA MASTER PLAN
BY SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER (FOREST) FOR ADDL. R9

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR
ORDERS AGAIN ON 08/10/2025, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT AND THIS COURT'S
ORDER DATED 26/09/2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE
FOLLOWING:

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

SSCR No. 21 of 2025

Dated this the 08th day of October, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V. J.

Having considered the submissions advanced by both sides, it appears that one of the issues requiring resolution pertains to the proposed construction of a godown for storing gas cylinders at Sannidhanam and Pamba, which is intended to be established at Nilackal.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the Ranni-Perunad Grama Panchayat submitted that an application seeking permission for the said construction was initially submitted by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) through the “Sanketham” portal. However, since the data has now been migrated to the “K-SMART” portal, a fresh application must be filed. It is further submitted that the earlier application was defective, and the same has to be cleared.

3. From the submissions advanced, it appears that the Panchayat entertains some doubt with regard to the ownership of the land and the person/authority who is entitled to file the application for carrying out the construction. In these circumstances, it would only be appropriate to secure the presence of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Ranni, as an additional

respondent.

4. We, therefore, suo motu implead the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Karikulam, Ranni, Pathanamthitta – 689672, as an additional respondent in this matter. The Registry shall carry out the necessary impleadment. The Special Government Pleader (Forest) shall take notice on behalf of the newly added respondent.

5. The learned Standing Counsel for the High Power Committee, Sabarimala Master Plan, submitted that the construction of the biogas plant was undertaken in 2019 by the Socio Economic Unit Foundation (SEUF). It is further submitted that a substantial portion of the work has already been completed, but the remaining work can be concluded only after the sanction of funds by the Government, to be routed through the Travancore Devaswom Board. It is stated that the balance amount required for completion of the project is approximately ₹72,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakhs).

6. Considering the scale and significance of the Sabarimala Temple, we are of the view that the establishment of a biogas plant at Sannidhanam is a matter of extreme necessity. We find no justification for the delay in completing the project. Accordingly, there will be a direction to the learned Government Pleader as well as the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the TDB to state before this Court as to whether the work has been delayed due to paucity of funds. The authorities shall bear in mind that it is in the interest of all concerned that the operation of the biogas plant is

commenced at the earliest. The learned counsels, as directed above, shall state the stand of the respective parties on the next posting date.

7. With respect to the roughening of the granite stone pavement on the road leading to the Sannidhanam, Sri. G. Biju, the learned Standing Counsel, submits that the work commenced on 26.09.2025 and has achieved a physical progress of approximately 10%. It is further submitted that the work is being expedited and is expected to be completed by 10.11.2025. We direct the Executive Engineer to accelerate the pace of construction and ensure that the work is completed well before the stipulated date. This Court shall continue to monitor the progress of the work periodically, and if due expediency is not found with regard to the progress of the work, the concerned Engineers will be held responsible for the same.

8. As regards the functioning of the organisation named “Devotee Doctors of Sabarimala”, it is noted that this Court, by order dated 21.01.2025 in S.S.C.R. No. 90 of 2024, had directed the Travancore Devaswom Board to take a decision based on the recommendations made by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer. In the report dated 13.12.2024, the Chief Vigilance Officer has opined that only Doctors governed by the Kerala State Medical Practitioners Act, 2021, and registered with the Travancore-Cochin Medical Council (TCMC), be permitted to function as voluntary Doctors at Sabarimala. The report also disclosed certain malpractices and recorded that the members of the said organisation were affiliated with a private institution, AVITIS Institute of Medical Sciences,

Palakkad.

9. However, from the proceedings dated 29.09.2025 issued by the Travancore Devaswom Board, it is seen that the Board has recorded that the organisation “Devotee Doctors of Sabarimala” is not presently functioning at Sabarimala, and that any fresh request for permission from the said organisation shall be considered strictly in accordance with law.

10. Having perused the report of the Chief Vigilance Officer and the earlier orders of this Court in S.S.C.R. No. 90 of 2024, we deem it appropriate to direct the Travancore Devaswom Board to place its decision, as and when it is taken, with regard to the accreditation or engagement of any private Doctors, before the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala. The Special Commissioner shall, in turn, file a report before this Court, and only after obtaining sanction from this Court shall the Travancore Devaswom Board proceed to appoint or permit any private doctors to function at the Sannidhanam.

Post on 15.10.2025.

Sd/-
**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-
**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

APM