

the Forest Dept. agreed to do a hand-held GPS survey along the boundary to get a rough idea about its actual extent. After reasons given of lack of staff, etc, apparently an attempt was made to do a hand-held GPS survey. But it apparently ended in failure as "the local people did not allow survey to continue". A hand-held GPS survey, could have been done without instigating any 'local disturbances'.

(Letter received from the Member of the Committee is in **Annexure-IV**).

As per GO(MS) No. 180/05/Revenue dated 08.06.2005, Government of Kerala handed over 305 acres of revenue land in Block no. 58 of Kottakomboor Village in Devikulam Taluk in Idukki District to the Forest Department in lieu of the forest land diverted for the implementation of Sabarimala Master Plan. As per norms, this compensatory afforestation area ought to have been declared as reserve forest as per Kerala Forest Act, 1961. But as the notification for the Kurinjimala Sanctuary soon followed, the need for notifying this area as reserve forest was not considered necessary. The competency forest area of 305 acres was included in the Sanctuary area.

As per Order No. GO(MS) 220/05 dated 06.07.2005, the entire revenue land in Block No. 58 consisting of Kambakallu-Kadavari areas was handed over to the Forest Department for protection. Forest Department was directed to initiate action to protect the land for which a Committee had to be constituted with Forest, Revenue and Police Departments under the chairmanship of District Collector.

Kambakallu - Kadavari area was notorious for ganja cultivation. In order to eradicate ganja cultivation, Government of Kerala sanctioned two