

THE REPORT ON UNAUTHORISED POSSESSION OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN KURINJIMALA SANCTUARY IN VATTAVADA AND KOTTAKAMBOOR VILLAGES

1. INTRODUCTION

As per GO [Ms] No.177/14/RD dated 03.05.2014 (**Annexure I**) and GO (MS) No. 264/14/RD dated 21.06.14 (**Annexure II**), Government have constituted a Special Committee under the Additional Chief Secretary (Home & Vig.) to examine the whole issue prevailing regarding the Government lands at Kurinjimala Sanctuary comprised in Vattavada and Kottakamboor villages .

Prima facie, issues that have arisen in the Vattavada and Kottakamboor Villages are not exclusively limited to that area alone; rather it is a typical feature of the remaining villages, namely Kanthalloor, Keezhanthoor and Marayoor also, the five villages in the erstwhile Anchunadu area, the cool season vegetable hub of the then-Travancore heartland. On a macro-level analysis the major issues observed are as follows:

- Badly maintained and systematically tampered Revenue records over decades;
- Non-availability of basic land assignment related registers that are crucial for verifying assignments, primarily, Number I Register and Number II Register for these villages.
- The assignees occupying lands other than those mentioned in Thandaper Registers / Registration Documents / Pattayam files or far in excess of extent mentioned in these documents.