

- Rampant deforestation of shola forests to plant Eucalyptus Grandis by encroachers and in some areas by Forest department itself.
- The inability on the part of revenue officials in enforcing the Kerala Land Conservancy Act, 1957.
- Helplessness on the part of Forest Department officials and the Survey Department officials to undertake GPS survey of boundary of the sanctuary.
- The resurvey conducted by Survey and Land Records Department that generated complaints, confusion and alienation of public lands.

The Committee set up vide G.O. dt. 03.05.2014 is required to examine the issue in its entirety on the conditions prevailing in the Government lands at Kurinjimala Sanctuary and Vattavada and Kottakamboor villages in Idukki District and submit a report to Government. As per the order, the District Collector, Idukki shall provide necessary assistance to the Committee. Further, a Special Survey team was required to mark the private holdings in the said Sanctuary with clear boundaries. Also, an IAS officer was to be posted as Sub Collector, Devikulam.

The Committee had a number of meetings and the Members visited the site singly and some places collectively. The Members tried to examine the problem from the overall perspective and from the angle of their own specific departments, viz. Forest, Police and Revenue. Each admitted to the huge problem prevailing in the area, but none did or could do anything to solve or mitigate it from their end. As is explained later in the report, each had a set of ready reasons that showed the helplessness, incompetence and in some cases connivance of the departmental officers. DC, Idukki provided the list of land. An IAS Officer was posted in Devikulam.

This Committee can ultimately only lay down the methodology to sort out the huge land management issues that have arisen in the Anchunadu area and make recommendations on the corrective steps to be taken to