

**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 29th day of May 2026 / 8th Jyaishta, 1948**

DBAR NO. 1 OF 2026

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA DEVASWOM - SPECIAL
INTERIM REPORT ON THE VERIFICATION OF ABHISHEKA NEYY PRASADAM (AADIYA SISHTAM
NEYYU) - DURING 1201 ME MANDALAM & MAKARA VILAKKU FESTIVAL**

PETITIONER:

**THE JOINT DIRECTOR
KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,
NANDANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**

BY GOVERNMENT PLEADER



RESPONDENT:

**THE SECRETARY
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
PIN - 695003**

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

**THIS DEVASWOM BOARD AUDIT REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN
ON 29/05/2026, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED
01/04/2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:**

FRIDAY, THE 29TH DAY OF MAY 2026
DBAR No. 1 of 2026

THE JOINT DIRECTOR

VS

THE SECRETARY

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SSCR No. 3 of 2026

SUO MOTU

VS

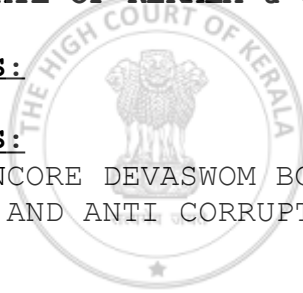
STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

NIL

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SHRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, SRI.RAJESH A.,
SPL. G.P. (VIGILANCE AND ANTI CORRUPTION BUREAU)



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

DBAR No. 1 of 2026 & SSCR 3 of 2026

Dated this the 29th day of May, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

Today, when the matter was taken up, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Pathanamthitta Unit, on behalf of the 7th respondent, placed before this Court a detailed investigation report.

2. The investigation conducted thus far reveals that the Travancore Devaswom Board suffered a loss of ₹17,14,460 on account of misappropriation in the sale of Abhisheka Neyy Prasadam (Adiya Sishtam Neyy) through four counters at Sannidhanam during the relevant period. The Investigating Officers have, however, reported that owing to the absence of proper record maintenance and accountability mechanisms, it has not been possible to fix individual responsibility on the employees of the Board who functioned as Temple Special Officers and counter staff during the said period.

3. The Vigilance has reported that all 43 employees arraigned as accused in the case bear collective responsibility for the misappropriation. It has been further

recommended that stringent and effective measures be undertaken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future. The report also notes that Sri. Aneesh M.T., arraigned as the 3rd accused and who served as a Temple Special Officer, is a temporary employee engaged through the Employment Exchange. Having regard to the nature and gravity of the allegations revealed during the investigation, the Vigilance has recommended that his continuance within the temple premises would not be conducive to the proper administration and functioning of the temple. Appropriate steps have therefore been recommended to ensure that he is not permitted to continue either as a temporary employee or as a Temple Special Officer.

4. The Vigilance has further proposed initiation of action against Sri. Santhosh G., Assistant Engineer (Electrical), Sabarimala Development Project, and Sri. Rajesh Mohan V., Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Travancore Devaswom Board, Chengannur, for non-compliance with prescribed procedures and for defects in the execution of the work relating to the "Ghee Pipeline from Ghee Store to Ghee Packing Machine Room, including installation of the 700-litre steel container." It is reported that despite specific directions, the machine was not properly calibrated, rendering it impossible to accurately ascertain the quantity of ghee stored. These are serious matters that warrant immediate attention. We, therefore, direct the Devaswom Board to examine these issues in depth and place its specific stand before this Court.

5. Having regard to the findings emerging from the vigilance investigation and the serious systemic deficiencies brought to light, we are of the considered view

that immediate corrective measures are imperative. Accordingly, the Devaswom Board shall forthwith take effective steps to implement the following measures:

- (a) The duties, responsibilities, and accountability of all personnel involved in the sale of Adiya Sishtam Ghee, including Assistant Temple Special Officers and counter staff, shall be clearly defined, documented, and notified.
- (b) Formal proceedings shall be issued specifying the exact duty periods, dates, timings, and counters to which individual staff members are deputed, so as to ensure accountability and traceability.
- (c) The practice of deploying newly recruited employees with minimal service experience as Temple Special Officers or counter staff shall be discontinued, except in exceptional circumstances, so as to ensure efficient and accountable functioning.
- (d) At present, a single staff member issues both tickets and ghee packets at the Maramathu-II and Padinjarenada counters. This practice has evidently facilitated misappropriation and shall be discontinued forthwith. Separate personnel shall be assigned for ticket issuance and distribution of ghee packets.
- (e) The six storage tanks presently used for storing purified ghee, having capacities of 14,700 litres, 19,700 litres, and 3,500 litres, do not contain visible graduation markings or storage indicators. All such tanks shall be

scientifically calibrated and prominently marked to facilitate accurate determination of stock at any given point of time.

- (f) A digital flow meter shall be installed in the ghee transfer pipeline to accurately record and monitor the quantity of ghee transferred to the packing unit, both instantaneously and cumulatively.
- (g) A robust and verifiable accounting mechanism shall be introduced. Separate registers shall be maintained for receipt and supply of ghee packets. Every transaction shall be duly recorded, acknowledged, and periodically verified. Physical stock verification shall be conducted regularly, and all loss, wastage, or damage shall be properly quantified and accounted for.
- (h) Individual registers shall be maintained at every counter to ensure transparency and accountability during shift changes. Every outgoing staff member shall record and certify the stock handed over, and the incoming staff member shall acknowledge the same.
- (i) The Board shall accord priority to the comprehensive computerisation of all activities connected with the preparation, storage, accounting, and sale of offerings, including Adiya Sishtam Ghee, so as to ensure transparency, accuracy, and real-time monitoring.
- (j) The packing machine shall be equipped with a digital display system capable of automatically recording the number of packets produced during

specified intervals. Every packet shall mandatorily contain the batch number, packing date, and a unique QR code to ensure traceability. Periodic quality checks shall also be undertaken.

- (k) The unauthenticated steel tank presently used for storage prior to packing, in respect of which the quantity of ghee stored cannot be independently verified, shall be replaced or supplemented with a properly calibrated and authenticated container equipped with visible measurement indicators.
- (l) Though bookings can presently be made through the sabarimalaonline.org portal, the system does not identify the specific counter or staff member responsible for distribution. The portal shall therefore be upgraded by providing unique user credentials to all deputed staff, thereby ensuring a clear and auditable digital trail of every transaction.
- (m) Similar deficiencies exist in the onlinetdb.com portal, which presently lacks functionality for tracking actual disbursement of ghee packets, including Adiya Sishtam Ghee. Necessary modifications shall be carried out forthwith to ensure comprehensive transaction tracking and accountability.
- (n) High-definition CCTV cameras shall be installed at all counters, and the recorded footage shall be preserved for a minimum period of ninety days to facilitate audit, vigilance scrutiny, and investigation whenever required.

6. The learned Government Pleader, the Retainer Counsel appearing for the Vigilance and the Standing Counsel appearing for the Devaswom shall make

submissions on the further steps required to ensure that the perpetrators of any offences disclosed by the investigation are duly proceeded against in accordance with law. The learned Counsel shall also address the Court on the measures necessary to identify the acts of commission and omission on the part of the concerned Devaswom officials and the nature of disciplinary, administrative, or other action that may be warranted against those found responsible.

Post on 02.06.2026.

APM



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

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