

>

Title: Request to withdraw DSCs decision for takeover of the land and convert the land to C category so that it can be used for civilian purposes.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, in my State Kerala there is only one Cantonment and that is in my Constituency Kannur. It is a prominent strategic location for the Indian Armed Forces. From 18th century, Kannur was an army camp for European rulers. After Independence, Kannur Cantonment came under the control of the Indian Army. Today, it is the headquarters of Defence Security Corps.

Sir, within this cantonment area functions a prominent school known as St. Michael's Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School. Over 4,000 students study here in various classes from kindergarten to higher secondary. Adjacent to this school is a 1.5 acres land of Army known as GLR Survey No.32. This is an open ground between the road and front boundary of St. Michael's School. Along the lines of this ground are an Electrical Circle Office, a few restaurants and a guesthouse. For decades, this ground is being used as a gathering point for all sociocultural and political activities in Kannur. During school hours, the land is used by school vans and autorickshaws for safely alighting children. This ground is the only way to enter the school.

Ever since freedom movement, this ground holds historical and sentimental value to the people of Kannur and also has a potential for revenue generation. Unfortunately, the Defence Security Corps has issued directions for takeover of the land and the defence personnel have

been deployed to remove civilians entering this area. In the earlier years, DSC made several similar attempts to prevent the general public from entering this ground. However, timely intervention of the Government had helped in keeping the area accessible to all.

I request the hon. Minister of Defence to withdraw DSC's decision for takeover of the land. I request the Ministry of Defence to convert the land to C-category so that it can be used for civilian purposes.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को श्री के. सुधाकरन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।