

13-02-2023 Re: Requesting the Government to take immediate steps to exclude Pampa Valley and Angel Valley of Erumely Panchayat from the forest land and the Periyar Tiger Reserve. SPECIAL MENTION (ZERO HOUR) Antony, Shri Anto Land Settlement Forest Land Farmers' Welfare

Title: Re: Requesting the Government to take immediate steps to exclude Pampa Valley and Angel Valley of Erumely Panchayat from the forest land and the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Hon. Chairman, Sir, here, I would request the Government to take urgent steps to exclude Angel Valley and Pampa Valley of Erumely Grama Panchayat, Kottayam District from the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

According to the recent notification issued as per the direction of the hon. Supreme Court, these two wards of Erumely Grama Panchayat come under the buffer zone, and are included in the Periyar Tiger Reserve. Before India's Independence, the Government of Thirukochi gave approval for using the land for cultivation under the 'Grow More Food' scheme to overcome the food shortage in 1945. Therefore, the people started cultivation and settlement in these places well before the declaration of the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972.

Pampa Valley was exempted from the forest land in 1968, and after that, the Periyar Tiger Reserve came into existence in 1978. The UDF Government of Kerala led by Shri Oommen Chandy, granted *pattayam* for nearly 502 hectares of land 1,200 households.

At present, schools, several private and Government institutions, and worship places for different communities are functioning there. Most of the people living here are farmers who have started living there more than 70 years ago. They are under threat of evacuation because of declaration of forest land.

Being a Member of Parliament, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to exclude Pampa Valley and Angel Valley of Erumely Panchayat from the forest land and the Periyar Tiger Reserve at the earliest possible date.