

Felling of trees draws flak

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Udhagamandalam: Large-scale tree felling in a patta land in Kappachi village under the Thummanatty revenue village in the Nilgiris without the mandatory permission from the district committee has drawn flak from activists.

“Eucalyptus trees are being cut down for the last few days. We came to know that the forest department has not given permission to the land owners,” said an activist. “Fifteen loads of logs were cut without permission. Tho-

ugh we informed the village administrative officer concerned about it, no action was taken. The forest department should stop felling of trees in that area.”

K N Mathan, joint owner of the land, said felling by contractors has been going on for the last few days. “The second owner has entered into an agreement with a contractor to cut trees. I requested the contractor to stop it, but in vain. The local revenue inspector was informed, but no action was taken,” he said.

Meanwhile, district forest officer Guru Swamy Baddal promised to conduct an inquiry.