Press Release
12.01.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office has issued a Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 attaching **eight immovable properties** comprising land parcels and residential flats, valued at Rs. 2.66 Crore. These properties were acquired by the accused persons, namely Smt. Saumya Chaurasia and Nikhil Chandrakar, in the names of their relatives from the Proceeds of Crime generated from commission of scheduled offence i.e. illegal collection of coal levy and other extortion activities.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR No. 129/2022 registered by Bengaluru Police; Prosecution Complaint No. 3167/2023 dated 19.06.2023 filed by the Income Tax Department; and FIR No. 03/2024 dated 11.01.2024 registered by EOW/ACB, Raipur in the matter of illegal collection of coal levy in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Investigation has revealed that a group of private individuals, in active connivance with senior state politicians and bureaucrats, had formed a racket to extort money from coal transporters at the rate of **Rs. 25 per tonne of coal transported** during the period from **July 2020 to June 2022**. During this period, approximately **Rs. 540 Crore was illegally collected** by the syndicate. The extorted cash, constituting Proceeds of Crime (POC), was used to bribe government officials and politicians, fund election-related expenses, and acquire movable and immovable assets. So far, **properties worth Rs. 273 Crore belonging to the accused persons have been identified and attached**.

During the course of investigation, **11 persons have been arrested** by the ED, and till date, **five Prosecution Complaints against 35 accused persons** have been filed before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA).

Further investigation is under progress.