



PRESS RELEASE

27.04.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office, has conducted searches under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) on 25.04.2026 at 11 premises located in Kolkata, Habra, and Burdwan, linked to Nirajan Chandra Saha and Ors in PDS scam case. The searches resulted into seizure of Cash of **Rs. 18.4 Lakh**, various incriminating documents and digital evidence related to offence of money laundering.

ED initiated investigation in this case primarily based on West Bengal Police FIR registered at Basirhat Police Station on the complaint of Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Ghojadanga LCS, alleging large-scale diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) wheat meant for welfare schemes. The FIR disclosed commission of offences punishable under various Sections of IPC, 1860 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. It was alleged that PDS wheat was illegally procured, fraudulently repacked by reversing gunny bags bearing Government/FCI markings, and exported towards Bangladesh through Ghojadanga LCS, thereby causing huge loss to the public exchequer and wrongful gain to the accused persons. During investigation by the Police, Nirajan Chandra Saha, Sahabuddin Sk and Sahidur Rahaman were arrested. The Police has filed Charge Sheet against accused persons and entities for offences punishable under various Sections of IPC, 1860 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The investigation revealed a deep-rooted, well-organised criminal conspiracy involving exporters, wholesalers, suppliers, transporters, commission agents and other facilitators, operating across multiple districts and having inter-state ramifications. Approximately 5101.25 metric tonnes of PDS wheat loaded in about 175 trucks were intercepted and seized from various parking locations. Large numbers of invoices, challans, bills, truck documents and other records were seized. Verification of these documents established that most of them were fraudulently prepared, lacking essential particulars such as correct vehicle numbers, licence details of wholesalers, GST numbers and authentic transaction trails, thereby clearly pointing towards deliberate fabrication to give a false appearance of lawful trade.

During ED investigation, it was revealed that the accused entities adopted a systematic modus operandi to divert Public Distribution System (PDS) wheat meant for welfare beneficiaries. The wheat was procured at low prices through unauthorised channels, in collusion with suppliers, licensed distributors, dealers, and middlemen. Large quantities were illegally diverted from the supply chain and aggregated at multiple locations. To conceal its origin, the accused removed or reversed the original gunny bags bearing Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government markings and refilled them, thereby hiding identifying features and passing off the PDS wheat as

legitimate stock for further sale in open market or export, resulting in undue enrichment of accused persons and generation of Proceeds of Crime.

Earlier, in another case of PDS scam, ED has conducted investigation related to irregularities found in the PDS scheme being run by the State Government of West Bengal. The investigation was initiated based on 06 FIRs registered by the state Police in relation to seizure of PDS items viz. PDS Flour (Atta) from persons not authorized to deal in PDS items and irregularities in Paddy Procurement. The investigation determined that Rice Mills, along with other Flour Millers, in connivance with Government Authorized Distributors, Dealers, and associated Cooperative Societies, are involved in unlawful activities. These activities include misappropriating proceeds by deliberately delivering reduced quantities of atta to distributors, blending old atta with fresh atta, and accepting payments for paddy at Minimum Support Price through fraudulently established bank accounts under the names of fictitious farmers. Investigation has revealed that the accused persons have generated thousands of Crore of Proceeds of Crime by indulging in the aforesaid modus operandi. The proceeds were divided among stakeholders involved in this case, revealing a systemic network of generation of illicit funds. Movable and immovable assets worth Rs. 75 Crore have been attached, and nine individuals, including Bakibur Rahman and former Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, were arrested. Further, original prosecution complaint was filed in this case on 12.12.2023 and subsequently, four supplementary prosecution complaints have been filed before the Special PMLA Court, Kolkata.

The searches on 25.04.2026 resulted into seizure of Cash of **Rs. 18.4 Lakh**, and various incriminating documents and digital evidence related to offence of money laundering were seized too. Searches were also conducted in this case on 10.04.2026 at 17 premises located in Kolkata, Bongaon, Raniganj, Murshidabad and Habra, and the searches had resulted into seizure of Cash of Rs. 30.9 Lakh along with various incriminating documents and digital evidence related to offence of money laundering. The total cash seizure in this case so far is **Rs. 49.3 Lakh**.

Further investigation is under progress.