



Press Release
02.08.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar has arrested Bharat Bhushan Sharma @ Ashu, Ex- Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab on 01.08.2024 in a money laundering case related to Punjab Tender Scam in the Department of Food. Bharat Bhushan Sharma @ Ashu was produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Jalandhar and the Hon'ble Court has granted ED custody for 05 days.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by Vigilance Bureau, Punjab, under various sections of IPC, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

ED investigation revealed that Bharat Bhushan @ Ashu had laundered the Proceeds of Crime (PoC) through several shell entities and further purchased properties in his name and name of his family members.

Earlier, ED carried out search operations on 24.08.2023, 04.09.2023 and 06.09.2023 in Punjab Tender Scam case at the residential premises of Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Ex-Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Punjab and his associates at 24 locations in Ludhiana, Mohali, Nawanshahr, and Chandigarh (Punjab). The search operations had led to seizure of cash and freezing of funds lying in the bank accounts, freezing of properties at an aggregate amount, gold jewellery and gold bullions. The total value of recovery including seizure and freezing in this case was more than Rs. 8.46 Crore.

Further investigation is under progress.