



Press Release

10.10.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 28.06.2024 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the case of Custom Rice Milling Scam against Manoj Soni, ITS officer and the then Managing Director of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (MARKFED) and Roshan Chandrakar, Treasurer of Chhattisgarh State Rice miller association. The Hon'ble Special Court has taken cognizance of the PC on 05.10.2024 and has listed the matter on 26.10.2024 to frame charges against the accused persons.

ED had initiated investigation on the basis of a PC filed by Income Tax Department, Raipur against Manoj Soni, Roshan Chandrakar and others under various section of IPC, 1860 for alleged criminal conspiracy and extortion from rice millers of the state of Chhattisgarh to obtain undue financial gains.

ED investigation revealed that during Kharif Year 2021-2022, State Government abruptly hiked the incentive fixed for rice milling from Rs. 40 per quintal to Rs. 120 per Quintal. Subsequently, Officials of **MARKFED** as well as DMOs of districts of Chhattisgarh connived with office bearers of Chhattisgarh State Rice Millers Association to extort money from rice millers. To put pressure on rice millers to cough up the extortion amount. The accused persons kept bills of rice millers pending without any justification. Rice millers of entire Chhattisgarh were forced by State Rice Miller Association to cough up cash at rate **Rs. 20 per quintal of rice milled** for payment of their incentive bills. This resulted in huge cash collection from rice millers of Chhattisgarh which was used by accused persons for their personal gain.

During investigation, multiple rounds of searches were conducted in different districts of Chhattisgarh in the month of October 2023 and May-June 2024, which led into seizure of incriminating evidences against the accused persons as well as part of Proceeds of Crime extorted from rice millers. The accused Manoj Soni, ITS and Roshan Chandrakar were arrested by ED due to their role in offence of money laundering. Till date, properties worth Rs. 19 Crore of Roshan Chandrakar have been provisionally attached.

Further investigation is under progress.