



Press Release

03.09.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar has filed a Supplementary Prosecution Complaint on 22.08.2025 before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Mohali, against Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, former Forest Minister of Punjab, along with four other accused persons under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Earlier, ED had filed its first Prosecution Complaint against Sadhu Singh Dharamsot on 13.03.2024, in which charges have already been framed by the Hon'ble Special Judge (PMLA).

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in connection with multiple irregularities detected in the functioning of the Punjab Forest Department.

ED investigation revealed that Sadhu Singh Dharamsot during his tenure as Forest Minister in the then Government of Punjab demanded and accepted substantial bribes in lieu of granting permits for felling of Khair trees, effecting transfers/postings of officers in the Forest Department and issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the department. Based on the investigation conducted so far, it has been established that Dharamsot acquired Proceeds of Crime (POC) amounting to Rs.1.77 Crore through such corrupt practices. Further, investigation in the Disproportionate Assets case revealed that Sadhu Singh Dharamsot acquired POC worth Rs.6.34 Crore. In this regard, a Prosecution Complaint was filed before the Hon'ble Special Judge (PMLA) on 14.03.2024.

ED investigation further revealed that Sukhwinder Singh, Range Forest Officer, and Mohinderpal Singh, Block Officer embezzled Government funds to the tune of Rs.53.64 Lakh which had been allotted to Budhladha Forest Range for procurement of tree guards under the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme. The investigation established that no procurement of tree guards was carried out; instead funds were routed to the bank accounts of casual workers and their family members and subsequently withdrawn in cash. Earlier, assets worth Rs.53.64 Lakh belonging to Sukhwinder Singh, RFO had also been provisionally attached by ED.

ED had also carried out searches at various premises on 30.11.2023 and also arrested Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Ex. Forest Minister of Punjab on 15.01.2024 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

Further investigation is under progress.