



Press Release

09.08.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur has arrested Anwar Dhebar and Arunpati Tripathi on 08.08.2024 under the provisions of Prevention of money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the ongoing money laundering investigation into the Liquor scam in the State of Chhattisgarh. Anwar Dhebar and Arunpati Tripathi were produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur. The Hon'ble Court has granted ED Custody till 14.08.2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by ACB/EOW Chhattisgarh under various sections of IPC, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in the matter of Liquor scam in the State of Chhattisgarh.

ED investigation further revealed that Anwar Dhebar was the strongman who ran the Liquor syndicate in association with the topmost bureaucrat Anil Tuteja IAS. Both of them conceived and planned the entire scam and using the clout of Anil Tuteja IAS, Anwar Dhebar could post officials of his choice in the Excise Department and thus became the de-facto Excise Minister. He ran the entire bribe collection racket for PART-A, B, C & from FL-10A License Holders. He ran the unprecedented scam of selling unaccounted illicit liquor from State-run shops. Every rupee of the proceeds of crime earned through PART-A,B,C & from FL-10A licenses has been acquired from his direct actions.

ED investigation qua Arunpati Tripathi has revealed that he played a key role in enacting the nefarious scheme of sale of unaccounted liquor through CSMCL shops (termed Part-B). He was the one who arranged meeting with the district excise heads of the 15 top revenue generating districts where the Part-B liquor was to be sold and gave them detailed instructions related to the enactment of the plan. He was the one who made arrangements with Mr Vidhu Gupta for supply of duplicate holograms. Investigations have revealed that a fixed amount per case went to Arun Pati Tripathi out of the sale proceeds of the Part-B liquor.

ED investigation revealed that the corruption in liquor scam which ran between 2019 to 2022 in which corruption was done in multiple ways :

- PART-A Commission: Bribe was collected from the distillers per each Case of liquor procured from them by the CSMCL (State body for purchase and sale of liquor).
- PART-B Kacha liquor sale: Sale of unaccounted kacha off-the-books Country Liquor. In this case, not even a single rupee reached the State Exchequer, and all the sale proceeds were pocketed by the Syndicate. The illegal liquor was sold from State-run shops only.
- PART-C commission: Bribes taken from distillers to allow them to make a cartel and have fixed market share.
- Commission from FL-10A License Holders who were introduced to earn in Foreign liquor segment also.



ED investigation has revealed that Chhattisgarh Liquor scam resulted in massive loss to the State Exchequer and filled the pockets of the beneficiaries of the Liquor Syndicate with more than Rs 2100 Crore illegal Proceeds of Crime.

That earlier, Anil Tuteja, Ex-IAS officer, Arvind Singh & Trilok Singh Dhillon were also arrested by ED in the matter. ED has already attached 18 movable & 161 immovable properties worth approx. Rs. 205.49 Crore in the ongoing investigation of liquor scam.

Further investigation is under progress.