



Press Release

06/12/2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur has arrested Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, beneficial owner and Secretary of an NGO "M/s Udgam Seva Samiti", on 05.12.2024 under the Provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in District Mineral Fund (DMF) Scam. Manoj Kumar Dwivedi was produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur. The Hon'ble Court has granted his 4 days ED custody till 09-12-2024.

The DMF Scam involves corruption in the use of funds from the District Mineral Fund in Chhattisgarh. ED initiated investigation on the basis of 03 FIRs registered by Chhattisgarh Police under various sections of IPC, 1860 for siphoning off of the exchequer money by DMF contractors in collusion with officials of the State Government. The contractors have paid huge amount of commission/illegal gratification to officials, which is to the tune of 15 % to 42 % of the contract value.

ED investigation revealed that in the Financial Years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi in collusion with Smt. Ranu Sahu, IAS and other officers had fraudulently secured many DMF contracts in the name of his NGO M/s Udgam Seva Samiti. Manoj Kumar Dwivedi had paid commission of up to 42 % of the contract value to government officers for orchestrating the DMF contracts to his NGO. Further, in order to pay bribe amount, he had indulged himself in getting accommodation entries in the form of fake purchases of goods/service. In this way, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, by siphoning of DMF funds with the help of accommodation entry providers, generated cash to the tune of Rs. 17.79 Crore (approx.) out of which Rs. 6.57 Crore was kept by him for himself and rest of the amount was paid to public servants as bribe.

ED investigation also revealed that Manoj Dwivedi was not only colluding with the relevant officers at the district level to get DMF contracts, he was also assisting them, specifically, Smt. Ranu Sahu, IAS and Smt. Maya Varrier in collection of the bribe amount from other vendors working under DMF.

Earlier, ED had carried out search operations in the case on various locations which resulted into seizure of incriminating documents, digital evidence, cash and bank balance, jewellery etc. amounting to Rs. 2.32 Crore. Manoj Kumar Dwivedi has been arrested in DMF Scam in which earlier two persons i.e. Smt. Ranu Sahu, IAS and Smt. Maya Varrier, Chhattisgarh State Service Officer have been arrested by ED.

Further investigation is under progress.