



**Press Release**  
**30/12/2024**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur has conducted search operations at seven premises situated at Raipur, Dhamtari and Sukma districts of Chhattisgarh on 28.12.2024 under the provisions of Prevention of money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the **Liquor scam case of Chhattisgarh**. The search operation was carried at the residential premises of the former Excise Minister Kawasi Lakhma, who allegedly was the main recipient of Proceeds of Crime (POC) in cash, during his regime as Excise Minister. The searches were also conducted at the residential premises of his son Harish Lakhma and their close associates. As a result of search operation, ED has been able to gather evidence pertaining to utilization of POC in cash by Kawasi Lakhma during the relevant period of scam. Further, the search also led to recovery and seizure of multiple digital devices believed to be containing incriminating records.

ED investigation had earlier revealed that the liquor syndicate, comprising of Anwar Dhebar, Anil Tuteja & others, was operating in the state of Chhattisgarh. The POC generated through this scam has been estimated to be around Rs 2161 Crore. ED investigation has revealed that Kawasi Lakhma used to receive substantial amount in cash on monthly basis out of POC generated from liquor scam. ED investigation in the liquor scam, which ran between 2019 to 2022, revealed that POC was generated as illegal commission which was generated in multiple ways:

- **PART-A Commission:** Bribe was collected from the distillers per 'Case' of liquor procured from them by the CSMCL i.e. 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.

In this case, one attachment order attaching properties worth Rs. 205 Crore (approx.) has already been issued. So far, five persons were arrested in this case and Prosecution Complaint along with two Supplementary PCs were filed wherein cognizance has already been taken by the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur.

Further investigation is under progress.