



Press Release

20/12/2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur has conducted search operations at 6 premises situated at Raipur and Gariyaband districts of Chhattisgarh on 18.12.2024 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the **Liquor scam case of Chhattisgarh**. The searches were conducted on Abid Dhebar and Md. Hasan Raza Meman (Both from Gariyaband), Md. Gulam Memon, Sarfaraj Memon and Md. Hasan Raza Meman (all from Mainpur, District-Gariyaband) and Sarfaraj Memon, Raipur being associates of Anwar Dhebar.

ED investigation had earlier revealed that Anwar Dhebar is the kingpin of the liquor syndicate operating in the state of Chhattisgarh along with the Anil Tuteja & others. Anwar Dhebar has handled almost all the Proceeds of Crime (POC) generated in the subject case. The POC generated is estimated to be around Rs. 2161 Crore at this stage. Evidences documenting his direct involvement in managing the state administration for unhindered operations of the syndicate was also gathered. 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.

During the search operations, various incriminating documents, cash and digital devices were seized. The searches also revealed that several immovable assets were purchased by the associates of Anwar Dhebar during the check period which is over and above their declared sources of income. The seized documents also revealed that the properties were purchased at a very discounted price in comparison to the market price highlighting the use of cash component generated out of POC. Further, during the course of search action, currency notes counting machines were also found from multiple premises which further highlight the evidence of handling huge cash by these persons.

In the subject 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).

Further investigation is under progress.