



Press Release

10/12/2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office has provisionally attached immovable and movable properties worth **Rs.21.47 Crore** including lands, residential properties, Fixed Deposits and Bank Balances, vide a Provisional Attachment Order dated 09.12.2024. The provisionally attached property belongs to / owned by accused persons namely Ranu Sahu, IAS, Maya Varrier, Radheshyam Mirjha, Bhuvneshwar Singh Raj, Virendra Kumar Rathore, Bharosa Ram Thakur, Sanjay Shende, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Hrishabh Soni and Rakesh Kumar Shukla in the **District Mineral Fund (DMF) Scam case** being investigated under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of 03 different FIRs registered by Chhattisgarh Police under various sections of IPC, 1860, wherein it was alleged that the officials of the State Government in collusion with contractors scripted a conspiracy for siphoning off District Mineral Fund (DMF). For fraudulently securing the DMF contracts, the contractors paid huge amount of commission/illegal gratification to the tune of 15 % to 42 % of the contract value to corrupt public officials.

ED investigation has unearthed the modus operandi of the DMF Scam and it is revealed that major part of the funds credited in the bank account of contractors was withdrawn in cash directly by the contractors or transferred to accommodation entry providers against which cash was received by the contractors. These transactions with the accommodation entry providers were shown by the vendors as purchase of goods without any actual purchase. The cash so received by the vendors was used for the purpose of bribing public officials responsible for allotting the DMF work and/or clearing bills of vendor in this regard and part amount of this cash was also used by the vendors for their own benefit.

During course of investigation, ED had conducted multiple searches at the various premises of contractors, public servants and their associates and this resulted in seizure of unaccounted cash and jewellery worth Rs. 2.32 Crore and investigation revealed that the said seized amounts were part of bribe amount received by these public servants during execution of DMF works. The total Proceeds of Crime (POC) quantified till date in this case is Rs. 90.35 Crore where immovable and movable properties worth Rs. 23.79 Crore have been provisionally attached/seized/frozen as on 09.12.2024.

Further investigation is under progress.