



PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office has provisionally attached bank balances worth **Rs. 12.33 Crore (approx.)** of 2 individuals and 4 Private Medical Colleges in West Bengal under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by West Bengal Police. During the PMLA investigation, searches were conducted at various premises of Private Medical Colleges in West Bengal and Odisha and their key persons, agents and other related persons. During searches, several incriminating evidence including counterfeit stamps of notaries in USA, fake NRI certificates etc. for medical admissions under NRI quota were recovered. Further statements of various persons including trustees and key persons of Private Medical Colleges, agents and other related persons have also been recorded.

ED investigation has revealed that the guidelines set by Hon'ble Supreme Court for admissions under the NRI Quota in the Private Medical Colleges have been flouted by these Private Medical Colleges in large number of cases. As per rule, NRI sponsor has to be first and second degree blood relative. It is found that these Private Medical Colleges and their management/ key managerial persons in collusion with agents, lured the candidates and indulged in creation of fake certificates of NRIs, for admission under NRI quota.

ED investigation also revealed that the agents were preparing fake documents at the behest of medical colleges. These Private Medical Colleges were paying the agents for preparing fake documents. Medical colleges are charging hefty fees of Rs. 1-1.5 Crore (approx.) , for each MBBS seat and Rs. 3 to 4 Crore (approx.) for each MD/MS seat under NRI quota. The agents had also approached and obtained credentials of unrelated NRIs by paying money and used these credentials for preparing fake documents projecting these unrelated NRIs as sponsors for students. In some cases, the agents and medical colleges used same set of NRI sponsor documents for 2-3 different and unrelated candidates.

ED investigations also revealed that in spite of categorical information of forgery in case of certain NRI sponsors provided by the Ministry of External Affairs in response to the letter from local state authority, no action has been taken by concerned authorities.

As of now, Proceeds of Crime (POC) of Rs. 23.67 Crore has been identified.

Further investigation is under progress.