



Press Release
22.10.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) before Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Jalandhar on 26.09.2029 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA), 2002 in Tender Scam in the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs against 31 accused persons including Bharat Bhushan Sharma @ Ashu. The Hon'ble Special Court has taken cognizance of the PC on 19.10.2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by Vigilance Bureau, Punjab, under various sections of IPC, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 related to 'Tender Scam' in Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

ED investigation revealed that the then Minister of Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. Of Punjab, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, favoured selected contractors in allotment of tenders and promising higher profits to them, thereby collecting bribe from them through Rajdeep Singh Nagra, Rakesh Kumar Singla and other persons including a few government officers of Punjab Food and Civil Supplies Department. The bribe money was further laundered to purchase movable and immovable properties through network of shell entities.

Earlier, ED had conducted two searches on 24.08.2023 and 04.09.2024 at 28 locations in different parts of Punjab. Further, during investigation, Bharat Bhushan Sharma @ Ashu and his close aide Rajdeep Singh Nagra were arrested under PMLA, 2002 on 01.08.2024 and 04.09.2024 respectively for committing the offence of money laundering and both are in Judicial Custody at present. ED had provisionally attached properties worth Rs.22.8 Crore (approx.) which include immovable properties situated at Ludhiana, Mohali, Khanna and other parts of Punjab and movable properties in the form of FDRs, Gold Jewellery, Bullions and bank accounts.

Further investigation is under progress.