



PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Cochin Zonal Office has provisionally attached assets worth Rs. 6.51 Crore in the case related to illegal Granite Mining in Mukkunnimala region under the provisions of Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

During the course of investigation by ED, it is noticed that, while working as President of Pallichal Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram District, colluded with J. Albert, J. Noel Raj and other panchayath secretaries of Pallichal Grama Panchayath, Ajayakumar G.S. and other Village Officers of Pallichal Village, and R. Gopakumar, District Geologist, Mining and Geology Department, Thiruvananthapuram, during the period from 2010 to 2014, committed criminal misconduct by abusing their official positions and in furtherance of their common intention, fraudulently issued illegal quarrying/crushing licenses to Thomas Philip, Arun Varghese, Sudhakaran Vamadevan and others in Block No. IV of Pallichal Village in Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala and thereby violated the provisions/conditions of the Special Rules for Assignment of Government Lands for Rubber Cultivation, 1960, Kerala Minor Minerals Concession Rule, 1967 and Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994.

The Proceeds of Crime (POC) generated by mining in areas earmarked for rubber cultivation/government lands, utilizing the illegal licences received by Thomas Philip and other directors of M/s Metro Aggregates and Sand India Pvt. Ltd, Arun Varghese and other Directors of M/s K K Rocks and Granites India Pvt. Ltd. & M/s AVJ Readymix and Blocks Pvt. Ltd. and Sudhakaran V and other partners of M/s VSC (Hollow Bricks and Crushers division), were traced during the course of investigation and properties in the name of sister entities of M/s Metro aggregates and Sand Limited valued at Rs. 2.42 Crore (approx.), properties in the name of M/s KK Rocks and Granites India Pvt. Ltd. and Arun Varghese valued at Rs. 2.22 Crore (approx.), properties in the name of M/s VSC Hollow Blocks and Crushers Division, Sudhakaran and Sreejith valued at Rs. 1.86 Crore (aprox.) were provisionally attached under PMLA, 2002.

Further investigation is under progress.