

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached immovable and movable assets consisting of land property and balances in bank accounts worth Rs 8.14 Crore belonging to Ex-legislature cum mafia Atiq Ahmad and his wife under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in a money laundering case.

ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of several FIRs filed at various Police stations under the sections of Indian Penal Code, 1860 against Atiq Ahmad and others for the criminal offences related to murder, extortion, cheating, forgery, land grabbing and crimes of similar nature.

During investigation under PMLA, it is revealed that Atiq Ahmad through the criminal activities earned dirty money in cash and deposited/placed in his and his relatives' bank accounts. It has also been noticed by ED that, funds are being credited in their accounts from various firms and companies being run by his aides. It has also been revealed during investigation that these funds have been further utilized for acquisition of land property in the name of his wife at the consideration price far below the government value. ED has gathered data related to the companies run by Atiq's aides, from Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Income Tax (IT) department and other agencies. Statements of accused persons are being recorded and inquiry is being conducted to ascertain the source of funds invested in these companies. Money trail of proceeds of crime is also being established.

In the present provisional attachment, land property situated at Arazi no. 386 & 387, mauza Katka, Paragana Jhunsi, Tehsil Phulpur, Allahabad in the name of Shaista Parveen w/o Atiq Ahmad has been attached. This property was acquired by Ateeq Ahmad for a consideration of just Rs. 4.5 Crore, which is far below the government value of Rs. 6.86 Crore. In addition to this, ED has also attached bank account balance of Rs. 1.28 Crore lying in 10 bank accounts of Atiq Ahmad and one bank account of Shaista Parveen w/o Atiq Ahmad.

This is the first attachment by ED in this case. Further investigation is under progress and more assets of Atiq Ahmad and his aides are likely to be attached in due course.