



PRESS RELEASE

30.01.2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached 51 immovable properties worth **Rs 17.48 Crore** approximately in the illegal Coal levy extortion scam in the State of Chhattisgarh. The attached properties include 8 benami immovable properties worth Rs 7.57 Crore which are beneficially owned by Ms Saumya Chaurasia, Deputy Secretary to CM of Chhattisgarh, and remaining 43 benami properties which are beneficially controlled by Suryakant Tiwari.

In the same money laundering investigation, ED had previously issued a Provisional Attachment Order on 09.12.2022 attaching properties worth Rs 152.31 Crore belonging to Suryakant Tiwari, Sameer Vishnoi IAS, Ms Saumya Chaurasia, Chhattisgarh Civil Service Officer, Sunil Agarwal & others. In total, ED has attached assets to the tune of approximately Rs 170 Crore till now.

ED has initiated money laundering investigation based on the FIR lodged on the complaint of Income Tax Department. Searches have been conducted and so far 9 accused persons have been arrested under PMLA. All of them are in the judicial custody. ED investigation has established that proceeds of crime worth Rs 540 Crore were acquired in this extortion racket. A systemic network of extortion was set up with the active connivance and participation of large number of bureaucrats and higher powers. ED is investigating the entire gamut of the extortion racket.

Further investigation is going on.

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