



Press Release

28.01.2023

ED has arrested four more accused under PMLA in the Illegal Coal levy scam of Chhattisgarh. Accused persons have been produced before the PMLA Special Court at Raipur. 3 days of ED Custody has been granted till 30th Jan for all 4 accused persons. ED had earlier issued a PAO attaching proceeds of crime worth Rs 152.5 Crore and has filed a Prosecution Complaint under PMLA. Recently, searches were conducted in Chhattisharh, Delhi, and Pune on specific inputs and following accused persons have been arrested:-

- (a) Deepesh Taunk, a close confidant of one of the main accused in the case, Smt Saumya Chaurasia, Dy Secy in the CMO and knowingly involved in Money Laundering.
- (b) Sandeep Kumar Nayak (Surajpur) & Shiv Shankar Nag (Korba); Mining Officers who knowingly and willingly assisted the syndicate of Suryakant Tiwari in committing extortion and acquisition of the proceeds of crime.
- (c) Rajesh Chaudhary a comman cheating people by claiming to work as middleman to settle cases. ED investigation has established that close family members of Sunil Agarwal (an accused arrested by ED and presently in Judicial Custody) were making desperate efforts to secure release of Sunil Agarwal, soon after his arrest by ED on 12.10.2022. At that time, this self-acclaimed 'liaisonner', got in touch with the relatives of Sunil Agarwal.

Since, Rajesh Agarwal had acquired part of the proceeds of crime as revealed by investigation, on getting specific intelligence inputs, ED on its own launched an operation and Mr Rajesh Chaudhary was traced and arrested under PMLA. During his interrogation, it was discovered that he had also created fake ID Cards of ED officer and was also declaring himself as an ED employee in various KYC documents submitted to banks.



Further investigation is in process.