



12.12.2021
PRESS REEAE

The Hon'ble Special Court, PMLA, Ranchi has granted five (5) day Custody of Panna Lal Mahto @ Ganjhu, a resident of Khunti District of Jharkhand, to ED on 10.12.2021. Multiple cases were registered against him in Khunti, Ranchi and Delhi under various sections of Indian Penal Code for the offences of kidnapping, trafficking etc. Mahto was arrested twice by Khunti Police in 2006 and 2015, but walked out of the jail on bail. He had networks in Delhi, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. In Delhi, he used to operate an agency in the name of Panna Lal Placement Agency. It is estimated that Mahto trafficked not less than 5000 people. Recently, he was lodged in Birsa Munda Central Jail, Ranchi and presently continuing Judicial Custody in an NIA's case of human trafficking.

Enforcement Directorate initiated Money Laundering Investigation on the basis of the FIRs registered by Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), Khunti Police, Jharkhand against Panna Lal Mahto and others for the offences of Human Trafficking.

Money Laundering Investigation by ED has revealed that Panna Lal Mahto has amassed huge property in Jharkhand, Delhi and other States from the activities related to illegal Human Trafficking. During the investigation conducted under PMLA, various immovable properties in the form of Land in Ranchi and Khunti Districts have been identified to have been acquired by Mahto out of the proceeds of crime. Panna Lal Mahto @ Ganjhu and his accomplices are also operating various bank accounts having number of high value transactions, which appear to have been acquired and transacted out of proceeds of crime.

Further investigation is under progress.
