



PRESS RELEASE

18.07.2022

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed Prosecution Complaint before the Hon'ble Special Judge, PMLA, SAS Nagar, Punjab on 16.06.2023 against Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot (Naib-Tehsildar) and 12 others under section 44 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a case related to misallocation and illicit sale of falsely allocated shares of Shamlat (panchayat) Land. The Hon'ble Special Judge, PMLA, has taken cognizance of the said Prosecution Complaint on 17.07.2022.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Vigilance Bureau, Punjab under various sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act.

ED investigation has established that revenue officials viz. Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot and others, while preparing the Intkal, falsely allotted shares of Shamlat Land of village Seonk to the tune of 102 acres (having market value of Rs. 30 Crore approx.) in the name of some ineligible villagers. Subsequently power of attorneys were obtained by the private property dealers from these villagers and on the basis of these power of attorneys, the said private property dealers in connivance with Revenue Officials sold Shamlat Land to outside purchasers. The sale consideration was shared by the private property dealers and Revenue Officials among themselves giving small amount to the villagers as well from whom the power of attorneys were obtained.

The accused, Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot (Naib Tehsildar) was arrested by the ED on 20.04.2023 and has since been in judicial custody. Earlier, on 01.06.2023 the ED has provisionally attached residential properties of Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot in Chandigarh and Hoshiarpur valued at Rs 8 Crore (approx.).

Further investigation in this case is in progress.