



Press Release

13/12/2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed a Prosecution Compliant (PC) against Bakibur Rahaman, NPG Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd., Jyoti Priya Mallick, presently Minister-In-Charge of Forest Affairs and Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources of Government of West Bengal (earlier, Minister-In-Charge of Food and Supply Department. Govt. of West Bengal) and others on 12.12.2023 in a PMLA case related to alleged siphoning of PDS ration to open market, mixing of wheat flour in fresh flour and bogus paddy procurement. The Prosecution complaint was filed before the Ld. Special PMLA Court, Kolkata. In the said complaint prayer has been made for confiscation of properties worth Rs. 32.44 Crore which are allegedly acquired and derived from Proceeds of Crime (PoC), and include 101 immovable properties and balance in several bank accounts. The Hon'ble Court has taken cognizance of the PC on 12/12/2023.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by West Bengal Police wherein various private persons were allegedly found in unauthorized possession of PDS ration and involved in bogus procurement of paddy. During ED investigation, three important modus operandi were detected in respect of alleged generation of Proceeds of Crime related to PDS scam which are as under:

- NPG Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd. allegedly siphoned off the PDS atta/wheat flour in collusion with PDS distributors, PDS Dealers and other persons thereby causing huge gain to themselves and corresponding loss to the Government funds and intended beneficiaries of PDS Scheme. As per the evidence collected, approx. 25.55 % quantity of total atta required to be delivered to the PDS Distributors was siphoned off.
- It was also found that NPG Rice Mill Private Limited was buying back the atta delivered to various dealers through various middlemen/agents and was mixing the same with fresh PDS atta and accordingly corresponding quantity of wheat was being allegedly siphoned off thereby generating proceeds of Crime. This modus-operandi not only generated proceeds of crime but also affected the quality of atta delivered.



- In another modus operandi, it was found that Proceeds of Crime were generated under the garb of paddy procurement in the name of fake farmers. It was found that Miller (Bakibur Rahaman) was controlling or was hand in glove with many cooperative societies and by using the names of his employees and relatives as “fake farmers” in the muster rolls, he received payments at MSP in the bank accounts of such employees and relatives.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Bakibur Rahaman laundered the PoC through various companies, invested in acquisition of various immovable properties and also transferred part of PoC to certain companies allegedly under the control and beneficial ownership of Jyoti Priya Mallick.

During the investigation, proceeds of crime allegedly derived from predicate offences in the form of 101 immovable properties and Rs. 2.89 Crore (balance in the bank accounts) were provisionally attached on 11.12.2023. Earlier, Rs. 16.87 Crore in certain bank accounts were also frozen. Jyoti Priya Mallick and Bakibur Rahaman were arrested u/s 19 of PMLA, 2002 and at present, both are under judicial custody.

Further investigation is under progress.