



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**02.06.2023**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), has provisionally attached properties worth Rs. 8 Crore of Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot, the then Naib Tehsildar, in a money laundering case involving revenue officials and others for misallocating shares of shamlat (panchayat) land of village Seonk, SAS Nagar, Punjab to the tune of more than 99 acres in the name of ineligible villagers and in some instances, even outsiders. The properties include residential premises situated at Chandigarh and Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Vigilance Bureau, Punjab under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act. Chargesheet was filed by the Vigilance Bureau in the said FIR against the accused Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot and others confirming the allegations.

Investigation has revealed that revenue officials viz. Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot and others, while preparing the Intkal, have falsely allotted shares of panchayat land of village seonk in the name of 6 villagers. Subsequently power of attorneys were obtained by the private property dealers from these villagers and on the basis of these power of attorneys, these private property dealers in connivance with revenue officials sold panchayat land to non-eligible villagers and some outsiders. 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 taken.

During the investigation, bank accounts maintained by Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot in his and his family members name were scrutinized and unexplained credits to the tune of more than Rs 15 Crore were found including cash credits of around Rs 8 Crore during the relevant period. Further, during the investigation, it was revealed that Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot has received funds in his relatives' Bank Accounts from the friends and relatives of the final purchaser and/or beneficial owners of the panchayat land. Further, most of the sale consideration of panchayat land was transacted in cash.

Earlier, Varinder Pal Singh Dhoot was arrested by ED on 20.04.2023. Presently he is in Judicial Custody.

Further investigation is ongoing.