



Press Release

11/5/2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested **Nitesh Purohit & Trilok Singh Dhillon** under the provisions of PMLA 2002 in the ongoing money laundering investigation in the '**Liquor scam**' in the State of Chhattisgarh. ED conducted searches at various locations connected to hawala operators & entities on 9.05.2023 where proceeds of crime were suspected to be parked. During the search, movable properties worth Rs 28 Crore suspected to be PoC have been unearthed and seized.

ED is conducting investigation in the liquor scam between 2019 to 2022 in which money was illegally generated and siphoned off in various corrupt ways :

- PART-A Commission: Bribe was collected from the distillers per case basis of liquor procured from the distillers by the CSMCL (State body for purchase and sale of liquor).
- PART-B: Sale of unaccounted kacha off-the-books Country Liquor. In this case, not even 1 rupee reached the State Exchequer, and all the sale proceeds were pocketed by the Syndicate. The illegal liquor was sold from State-run shops only.
- PART-C commission: Bribes taken from distillers to allow them to make a cartel and have fixed market share. This cartel was exclusively supplier for the state of Chhattisgarh.
- Commission from FL-10A License Holders who were introduced to earn kickback/ illegal gratification from them in foreign liquor segment also.

ED investigation has revealed that Nitesh Purohit a close associate of Anwar Dhebar, was involved in the handling and movement of illegally collected cash. He was transporting cash as per the instructions of Anwar Dhebar. He was arrested on 10.5.2023 and produced before PMLA Special Court Raipur and 5 days of ED Custody has been granted to ED for interrogation.

ED investigation has also revealed that Trilok Singh Dhillon was a prime beneficiary of Proceeds of Crime through a classic mode of money laundering. He has willingly and knowingly allowed his Bank accounts and firms to be used for layering of large amount of Proceeds of Crime. Without any reasonable explanation, he has taken funds through banking channels from the FL-10A license holders falsely showing as unsecured loan and kept as FD. He has also taken kickbacks from major Country liquor suppliers in the guise of business transactions and kept the money with him. The underlying business transactions shown have been found to be completely bogus. During search operation at his premises, illegal surveillance was mounted on ED's operation with the help of aerial drone by unidentified persons. ED has frozen FDs of Rs 27.5 Crore in the name of his firms involved in money laundering and also seized Rs 52 Lakhs of unaccounted cash. He was arrested on 11.5.2023 and produced before PMLA Special Court which granted 4 days ED Custody.

Anwar Dhebar was also produced on 10.5.2023 after completion of 4 days of ED Custody. PMLA Special Court has further extended his ED custody for 5 more days.

Further investigation is in progress.
