



## **Press Release**

**12.01.2024**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached movable/immovable assets valued at **Rs. 3.46 Crore** in the form of Land, Bank balance belonging to Lakshman Hembram, Sub Postmaster, Postal Department under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in the case of M/s Lakshman Hembram & others.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the Moyna Police Station, Purba Medinipur, Tamluk, for alleged commission of offence under various sections of IPC, 1860 against Lakshman Hembram.

ED investigation revealed that Lakshman Hembram used to effect premature/final closure of Term Deposits Accounts apparently by forging signature of the account holders and transferred the pre-mature amount/maturity proceeds of those TD accounts to the saving accounts of the same account holders without knowledge of those account holders. Thereafter he used to siphon off the said amount from their SB accounts by way of fraudulent withdrawals again apparently by forging signature(s) of the account holders. The instances of withdrawals of amounts exclusively from Saving Bank Accounts of the depositors and term deposit were observed without knowledge of the account holders as none of these withdrawals found mention in the relevant passbooks of the depositors. These withdrawal amounts to the tune of Rs 4.12 Crore were used for the purchase of movable/immovable assets and for personal use and are proceeds of crime as per provision of PMLA, 2002.

Earlier search operation was conducted by the ED, at the residential places of Lakshman Hembram, and incriminating documents related to his involvement in the fraud, Cash amounting to Rs 5.25 lakh and bank balance of Rs 5.97 Lakhs was found and seized/frozen.

Further investigation is under progress.