



Press Release
7/11/2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested Jyoti Priya Mallick, presently Minister-In-Charge of Forest Affairs and Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources of Government of West Bengal on 27.10.2023 in a case related to fake paddy procurement and siphoning of PDS ration to open market. He was earlier Minister-In-Charge of Food and Supply Department, Govt. of West Bengal from 2011 to 2021. The Ld. CMM court has granted 14 days custody of Jyoti Priya Mallick to ED till 12.11.2023.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by West Bengal Police, wherein it was found that various private individuals were involved in storing and selling of subsidized/Public Distribution System (PDS) wheat flour/atta without a valid license. In other FIRs of Kolkata Police, it was found that Rice Millers had opened bank accounts in the name of fake farmers and thus pocketed the MSP (Minimum Support Price) intended for the benefit of genuine farmers.

ED investigation revealed that approximately 30% of PDS ration intended for Priority Households (PHH), RSKY and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries was diverted to open market and the proceeds of crime generated from the same were shared between the millers and the PDS distributors. In another modus operandi, the govt. agencies were required to procure paddy at MSP from farmers. However, the millers opened fake farmers bank accounts in connivance with other persons including some cooperative societies and pocketed the MSP, which was intended for paddy farmers. One of the prime suspects has admitted that approx. Rs 200 per quintal was earned by various rice millers which was to be procured by the Govt. agencies at MSP directly from the farmers and this practice is being followed by various rice millers across the state over the years. Hence, a huge quantum of proceeds of crime are being generated and distributed in this way.

Earlier, ED also arrested Bakibur Rahaman, a flour and rice miller on 14.10.2023 who was remanded to judicial custody by the Ld. CMM Court on 28.10.2023 in the same case. Multiple searches were also conducted in this regard on 11.10.2023, 26.10.2023 and 04.11.2023 which resulted in seizure of incriminating material, seizure of Proceeds of Crime (PoC) amounting to Rs. 1.42 Crore in cash and freezing of PoC worth Rs. 16.87 Crore in bank accounts of shell entities.

Further investigation is under progress.