



PRESS RELEASE

17/8/2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed Prosecution Complaint before Special Court, Chennai, against V Senthil Balaji, the then Transport Minister, Tamil Nadu on 12/08/2023 for committing the offence of money laundering emanating from 'Cash for Jobs Scam' in Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation and Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai). The Hon'ble Special Court, Chennai, has taken cognizance of the Prosecution Complaint filed by ED on 16.08.2023.

ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of three FIRs registered by Central Crime Branch (CCB), Chennai in the 'Cash for Jobs Scam' wherein 3 chargesheets have been filed arraying V. Senthil balaji as main accused.

In this case, Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 16.05.2023, had directed Tamil Nadu State Police to further investigate and file supplementary chargesheet within 2 months; and allowed ED to proceed with its investigation lifting the stay on investigation vide Hon'ble Madras High Court order dated 01.09.2022.

ED investigation revealed that, V Senthil Balaji, the then Transport Minister, by abusing his official capacity, along with his brother RV Ashok Kumar, and his personal assistants B Shanmugam & M Karthikeyan, entered into a criminal conspiracy with the then Managing Directors of State Transport Undertakings (STUs) and other officers of transport corporations and obtained illegal gratification from candidates to recruit them as drivers, conductors, Junior Tradesmen, Junior Assistants, Junior Engineer and Assistant Engineer in the transport corporations.

During ED investigation, the bank statement analysis revealed that there were huge cash deposits in the bank accounts of accused V Senthil Balaji and his wife S Meghala. Further, ED has collected incriminating evidences indicating the utilisation of proceeds of crime and establishing the nexus and modus operandi of 'Cash for Jobs Scam'.

During the course of investigation, V Senthil Balaji was confronted with the incriminating evidences but he failed to rebut the same and offer any plausible explanation, instead he remained non-cooperative and evasive during the investigation proceedings.