



Press Note
16.03.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) against Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Ex -Forest Minister of Punjab, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 on 13/3/2024, before the Hon'ble Special Court, PMLA, Mohali. The Hon'ble Court has taken cognizance of the PC on 15/3/2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Vigilance Bureau, Punjab under various sections of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in relation to several irregularities committed in the Forest Department of Punjab.

ED investigation revealed that Sadhu Singh Dharamsot had demanded and received huge amount of bribes against issuance of permit for felling of Khair trees, transfer/posting of various officers in the Forest Department, issuance of NOC from Forest Department. During the investigation, it has been found that Sadhu Singh Dharamsot during his tenure as Forest Minister in the then Government of Punjab had acquired/obtained the proceeds of crime in the form of bribe amounting to Rs. 1.67 Crore (approx) from various persons.

Earlier, ED had carried out searches at various premises on 30.11.2023, linked with the concerned Ex- Forest Ministers of Punjab, their close associates, high ranking officers and other private persons under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 in connection with the irregularities committed in the Forest Department of Punjab and seized various incriminating material during the course of these searches.

Sadhu Singh Dharamsot was arrested by ED on 15.01.2024 under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 and presently he is lodged in the Judicial Custody of the Special Court.

ED has provisionally attached various properties to the tune of **Rs. 4.58 Crore** of Sadhu Singh Dharamsot on 13.03.2024, which are owned by Sadhu Singh Dharamsot and his sons, under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002.

Further investigation is under progress.