



Press Release

15.04.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hqrs. Office has arrested Premprakash Dhankani on 10.04.2024 from Bangalore under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a case related to illegal manufacturing and sale of methaqualone tablets, a prohibited psychotropic substance under the NDPS Act, 1985. The Special Judge, Jaipur Metro - I (Rajasthan) remanded him to ED custody for 05 days. Search proceedings were also conducted at the residential premises of Premprakash Dhankani on 10.04.2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of the Prosecution Complaint filed by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Jaipur against Late Subhash Dudani and others under various sections of the NDPS Act, 1985.

ED investigation revealed that 4 to 5 MT of Methaqualone was manufactured and trafficked in the year 2001, 5 MT in the year 2003-04 and another 8.9505 MT in the year 2009. The last batch of Methaqualone tablets was manufactured in the year 2014-15 out of which 14.886 MT was trafficked outside India and the remaining 23.32 MT was seized during the search operation conducted by the DRI from the premises of Marudhar Drinks, Udaipur. The total proceeds from this crime are quantified to the extent of **Rs.118.76 Crore**.

Several entities/ units in India as well as abroad were set up (wherein Premprakash Dhankani was the Director/ Proprietor) in order to manufacture, transport and traffic Methaqualone tablets. From the year 1995 to 2016, various consignments of Methaqualone tablets were manufactured and sent to African countries viz. **Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi as well as to Dubai** by concealing the contraband drugs in various consignments. The commission of crime took place in India and the Proceeds of Crime were received abroad and later transferred to India. Proceeds from the sale of these drugs were either collected in cash from Late Ronny Johnny Smith in Swaziland or in Dubai. Cash received overseas was subsequently transferred to India through Hawala Channels. This cash was mostly utilized for payment of the unaccounted part (cash) for purchase of properties in India. Apart from the cash routed to India through Hawala Channels, the cash collections from sale of Drugs were also shown/ claimed as part of the revenue generated from Dubai based entities which was subsequently transferred to the bank accounts maintained in India by Late Subhash Dudani, Premprakash Dhankani and other associates.

Earlier, ED had arrested Parmeshwar Vyas and Ravi Dudani on 28.03.2024, who are currently in Judicial Custody. ED had also issued 02 Provisional Attachment Orders attaching 21 immovable properties comprising of residential flats, office, plots and building, factories in Udaipur, Mumbai and Rajasmand having total value of **Rs. 13.02 Crore**.

Further investigation is under progress.