



**Press Release**  
**26.08.2023**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has carried out search operations at 25 locations in Punjab on 24.08.2023 in **Punjab Tender Scam case** including residential premises of Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Ex- Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Punjab, Raman Balasubramaniam, Ex-Chairman Ludhiana Improvement Trust (LIT) and their accomplices.

ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Vigilance Bureau of Ludhiana, under various sections of IPC 1860 and of PC Act, 1988 with respect to the Transportation and Labour cartage Policy 2021 of the Punjab Government. It is alleged that the tenders were allotted to contractors who approached the Minister through Rakesh Kumar Singla, Chairman of CVC, Food and Civil Supplies. Through this favoritism, the allottee contractors got undue advantages causing loss to the Government exchequer. Further, FIRs related to LIT scam regarding allotment of plots to bogus persons was also taken into consideration for the purpose of search.

During the search operation, a total amount of Rs.4.81 Crore lying in multiple bank accounts of the searched persons, prima facie identified as proceeds of crime, were freezed. Further, 5 immovable properties worth Rs 1.54 Crore (approx) alongwith 4 bank lockers have also been freezed. Various incriminating documents, digital devices and Indian Currency of around Rupees 30 lakhs have also been seized from various premises.

Further Investigation is under progress.