



Press Release
05.03.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kochi has provisionally attached movable/immovable properties worth Rs. 6.41 Crore approx. which includes 246 movable properties including securities and bank balances valued at Rs. 68.61 Lakh and 18 immovable properties valued at Rs. 5.72 Crore approx. under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 on 04.03.2024 from Smt Retnamma, Proprietor of M/s. Sandhya Cashew Factory, Sarath Chandran, S/o Retnamma & three bank ex-officials of Indian Overseas Bank in Kerala.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI under various sections of IPC, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act against Smt Retnamma, Proprietor of M/s. Sandhya Cashew Factory, Sarath Chandran, S/o Retnamma & three bank ex-officials of Indian Overseas Bank in Kerala.

It is observed from the charge sheet filed by CBI, Bengaluru, that Smt. Retnamma Proprietor of M/s. Sandhya Cashew Factory, Pathanamthitta, Kerala and her son Sarath Chandran, entered into a criminal conspiracy with B. Sasidharan, Gopala Krishnan and Manoj M., all Senior Managers of Indian Overseas Bank, during the tenure period of 22.08.2009 to 27.05.2014 with wrongful intention to cheat Indian Overseas Bank, Adoor by allowing credit facilities in the name of said factory by overvaluing the mortgaged securities. Sarath Chandran had availed the said limits by submitting false and forged documents and diverting the funds for the purpose of other than for which the loan was sanctioned. They also failed to clear the outstanding amounts against their various loan accounts causing wrongful loss to the Indian Overseas Bank, Adoor Branch, Kerala to the tune of Rs. 28.71 Crore. It revealed that the wrongfully diverted funds were layered in the form of bank accounts, securities and purchase of properties.

In charge sheet filed by CBI they have invoked sections 120B, 420 & 471 of IPC, 1860 and sections 13(2) r/w 13(1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which are scheduled offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and as a Prima Facie case of offence of Money laundering appeared to have been made out, investigation under PMLA, 2002 was initiated by the ED, Kochi and the proceeds of crime have been traced and now attached.

Further investigation is under progress.