



Press Release

5/8/2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) conducted Search operations on 03/08/2023 at nine locations linked to Thiru Senthil Balaji, a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), who was arrested in a cash-for-jobs scam and is currently in Central Prison, Puzhal, under judicial custody.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of three FIRs registered by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) in Chennai, related to the 'Cash for Jobs Scam. During the investigation, intelligence inputs indicated that one of V. Senthil Balaji's close associates, ST Saminathan, possessed incriminating documents/proceeds of the crime and attempted to hide/transfer them. Consequently, searches were conducted at his premises. It was discovered during the search that a relative of ST Saminathan, Smt. Shanti (Sister-in-law), is acting as benami of ST Saminathan and was seen moving bags containing documents and valuables. As a result, the investigative teams covered Smt. Shanti's premises.

However, Smt. Shanthi was not present at the location. Further scrutiny of CCTV footage and investigation revealed that the bags had been handed over to the Driver, Thiru Shiva. When Shiva's house was searched, he had already absconded and turned off his mobile phone upon hearing about the searches at Smt. Shanti's house. During the search at Shiva's residence, cash amounting to Rs. 22 Lakhs and unaccounted Valuables worth Rs. 16.6 Lakhs along with unexplained property documents for 60 land parcels has been found.

Smt. Shanti, who is a housewife, did not cooperate and participate in the search proceedings. ED investigation revealed that she has no source of income. Shiva, in his statement, admitted that Smt. Shanthi gave him the bags out of fear that incriminating details would be discovered.

Based on the ongoing investigation, it appears that the seized property and cash belong to ST Saminathan, a close associate of V. Senthil Balaji.

Further investigation is under progress.