



Press Release

13.08.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Chennai Zonal Office has made a significant arrest in the ongoing investigation into high-profile drug smuggling and money laundering. Mohammed Saleem has been arrested under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 for his involvement in laundering proceeds linked to the Jaffer Sadiq case.

This action follows an investigation by the NCB, which exposed Jaffer Sadiq Abdul Rehman, a former DMK functionary, as the mastermind behind a sophisticated scheme to smuggle pseudoephedrine to Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia, camouflaged as health-mix powder and desiccated coconut. The case also builds on previous seizures by customs authorities, including pseudoephedrine by Chennai Customs in 2015 and ketamine by Mumbai Customs in 2018. An ECIR was subsequently filed, leading to a comprehensive search under Section 17 of the PMLA at 15 locations across Tamil Nadu.

ED investigation revealed that Mohammed Saleem, in concert with Jaffer Sadiq, played a pivotal role in exporting and concealing pseudoephedrine and other narcotics. Saleem, who has director/ partner in multiple firms and entities, used these channels to launder and layer the Proceeds of Crime.

Findings reveal that Saleem has accumulated over Rs. 8 Crore in illicit cash deposits across multiple accounts under his control. Further analysis showed he is engaged in money laundering tactics, including using financial intermediaries and fictitious unsecured loans to obscure the origins of this cash. Saleem not only facilitated the transfer of drug trafficking proceeds into valuable real estate but also invested in high-end assets such as a Jaguar and other luxury vehicles. His amassed wealth, in stark contrast to his declared income, underscores the scale of his involvement in this criminal network.

Further investigation is under progress.