



Press Release

05.02.2022

Enforcement Directorate has arrested Bhupinder Singh S/o Santokh Singh under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a case connected with illegal sand mining. Earlier, searches in the matter were conducted by ED on 18.01.2022 at various premises, including the business and residential premises of Kudratdeep Singh and other directors of M/s Providers Overseas Consultants Pvt. Ltd., namely Bhupinder Singh S/o Santokh Singh & Sandeep Kumar S/o Kasturi Lal. Various incriminating documents, digital devices and cash to tune of more than Rs. 10 Crore, inter-alia, were recovered and seized during the search operation.

ED initiated Money-laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Police Station - Rahon, District – SBS Nagar, Punjab, registered under various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and of Mines and Minerals (Regulation of Development) Act, 1957. In the aforesaid FIR, it was mentioned that a team comprising of officials of Mining Department, Civil Administration and Police Department made a surprise check on 07.03.2018 based on a complaint received at the Police Station – Rahon, SBS Nagar, regarding illegal sand mining. Consequently, it was found that several mines were being excavated by various machines and mining was being carried out beyond the designated area. Accordingly, several tippers/trucks, Porcelain machines, JCB Machines etc. were captured and seized by the investigating team. The seized tipper/trucks were also found to be overloaded with sand. The seized weighment slips having office stamps had not been issued by the concerned office and were forged. Subsequently, the mining operation at Malikpur mining site (belonging to Kudratdeep Singh) and the approval of weighment Slips were stopped by the team. As per the FIR, apart from Malikpur, illegal mining activities were also carried out at Burjtahl Das, Barsal, Lalewal, Mandala and Khosa.

During the course of search operation, statements of Kudratdeep Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Santokh Singh (father of Bhupinder Singh) and Sandeep Kumar were recorded, establishing that the seized Rs. 10 Crore belonged to Bhupinder Singh S/o Santokh Singh. Further, Bhupinder Singh accepted that he received the seized cash in lieu of facilitation in sand mining operations and transfer/postings of officials. Fresh summons was issued to Bhupinder Singh for his personal appearance on 03.02.2022 alongwith requisite documents. In response, he appeared and tendered his statement, wherein he, inter-alia, stated that he is involved in the mining related activities, but took an evasive approach when confronted with incriminating data.

Bhupinder Singh was arrested on the night of 03.02.2022 at the Office premise of Jalandhar Zonal office and was produced before the Special Court on



04.02.2022, wherein the Special Judge (PMLA) rejecting the plea of the accused, allowed ED custody till 8th February, 2022.

Further investigation is under progress.
