



Press Release
28.04.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office has conducted search operations under Section 17 of the PMLA, 2002 on 28.04.2026 at 8 premises located at Abhanpur, Raipur, Dhamtari and Kurud in the State of Chhattisgarh in connection with illegal receipt of compensation for land acquisition for the Raipur–Visakhapatnam Highway Project under the Bharatmala Scheme. During the search operations, Indian currency amounting to Rs. 66.9 Lakh, silver bricks and other silver items weighing 37.13 kg, digital devices and various incriminating documents were seized.

ED initiated investigation under PMLA, 2002 based on the FIR registered by the ACB/EOW, Raipur against Nirbhay Sahu, the then SDO (Revenue), Abhanpur, Raipur and others under various Sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and IPC, 1860. The FIR alleged that illegal compensation was obtained by accused persons in collusion with government officials by falsification and manipulation of official land records relating to acquisition of land for the Raipur–Visakhapatnam Highway Project.

ED investigation revealed that the accused persons, in criminal conspiracy with certain public servants and other persons, fraudulently obtained excess compensation by deliberately transferring ownership of land even after issuance of notification under Section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 by NHAI, Raipur, and by creating multiple smaller land holdings prior to issuance of notification under Section 3D. It was further revealed that compensation was sanctioned and disbursed based on modified/manipulated Khasra records, resulting in inflated compensation payments. The excess compensation so received constitutes Proceeds of Crime, causing wrongful loss to the Government exchequer and corresponding unlawful gain to the accused persons.

Further investigation is under progress.