



Press Release

12.10.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office, has arrested Ram Gopal Agarwal, on 09.10.2026 under the provisions of Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with the Chhattisgarh Custom Rice Milling Scam involving illegal collection of Rs. 147 Crore (approx.) from rice millers. The Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, has granted 5 days of ED custody of Ram Gopal Agarwal.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of a Prosecution Complaint filed by the Income Tax Department under various sections of the IPC, 1860. Subsequently, an FIR was also registered by the ACB/EOW, Raipur, under various sections of the IPC, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

ED investigation has revealed that the special incentive for custom rice milling was increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 120 per quintal for Kharif season 2021-22. Thereafter, a syndicate comprising office bearers of the Chhattisgarh State Rice Millers Association and officials of MARKFED illegally collected cash from rice millers at the rate of Rs. 20 per quintal against the release of their incentive payments. The bills of rice millers who refused to pay the illegal amount were deliberately withheld. In this manner, approximately Rs. 147 crore was illegally collected during December 2022 to July 2023, constituting proceeds of crime under the PMLA, 2002.

Further investigation has revealed that Ram Gopal Agarwal played a key role in organising, supervising and controlling the illegal collection of cash from rice millers. He conveyed instructions for collection of illegal payments through the office bearers of the Rice Millers Association. The cash collected from different districts was reported to Roshan Chandrakar, the then Treasurer of the Association, who regularly furnished district-wise collection details to Ram Gopal Agarwal for verification. The illegally collected cash was thereafter delivered to persons nominated by him.

During investigation, Ram Gopal Agarwal was found to be evasive and non-cooperative and failed to disclose relevant information regarding the collection, handling and utilisation of the proceeds of crime. Accordingly, he was arrested on 09.10.2026 under Section 19 of the PMLA, 2002, and produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, which granted 5 days of ED custody.

Further investigation is under progress.