



NIA ARRESTS ABSCONDING SELF-STYLED SUPREMO OF JHARKAND'S BANNED NAXAL OUTFIT IN TERROR FUNDING CASE

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested the absconding self-styled Supremo of the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), a proscribed Naxal outfit of Jharkhand. He was nabbed in New Delhi.

Dinesh Gope @Kuldeep Yadav @Badku of district Khunti in Jharkhand was earlier chargesheeted by the NIA in the case (RC-02/2018/NIA/DLI) relating to the recovery of demonetized currency of Rs. 25.38 lakhs from the operatives of PLFI. He was absconding in the said case, one of the two cases being investigated by the NIA Ranchi Branch against the PLFI.

According to NIA investigations, more than 102 criminal cases are registered against the accused Dinesh Gope in the States of Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha. Most of these cases relate to murders, abductions, threats, extortion, and raising funds for the PLFI, a militant Maoist outfit formed in 2007 in Jharkhand and also a splinter group of the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist). सत्यमेव जयते

NIA had also declared a reward of Rs 5 lakhs for leads on Dinesh, in addition to the reward of Rs. 25 lakhs announced by the Jharkhand Government. He had been absconding for almost two decades.

On 3rd February 2022, an encounter had taken place between a Dinesh-led PLFI squad and security personnel in the forest area under Gudri Police station of West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. Several rounds were fired in the encounter before the rebels sneaked into the forest and Dinesh Gope managed to escape. He had been absconding since then, and had been taking shelter at different places while making all efforts to re-establish the PLFI's stronghold in Jharkhand.

Gope used to extort money and execute attacks through his PLFI team members to terrorize businessmen, contractors and the public at large, NIA investigations have shown. The accused, along with his associates, was involved in depositing the demonetized currency in a bank account at a Petrol Pump, to be later collected through levy/extortion. The illegal money was then invested through banking channels and dubious Shell Companies in the name of close associates and family members of the accused Dinesh Gope.

The case was initially registered as No. 67/2016 on 10th November 2016 at PS Bero, Ranchi, and re-registered by NIA on 19th January 2018. The police had filed the first Chargesheet against four persons on 9th January 2017. NIA filed the first Supplementary Chargesheet in the case against 11 accused, including Dinesh Gope. Subsequently, NIA filed the second Supplementary Chargesheet in the case on 23rd July 2022 against 5 individuals and 3 private limited companies. NIA had also attached 14 bank accounts and two cars, alongwith cash and immovable property worth more than a crore, in the case.

Known previously as Jharkhand Liberation Tigers (JLT), PLFI is responsible for hundreds of terror incidents in Jharkhand, including several murders using firearms, as per the NIA investigations. The outfit used to lure unemployed youth by providing them motor bikes, mobile phones and easy money and after imparting training, used to equip them with lethal weapons to carry out terror incidents.

Extortion is PLFI's major source of income and the outfit has been targeting coal traders, railway contractors and various private entities involved in developmental projects in various district of Jharkhand. The naxal outfit had also formed alliances with different criminal gangs in order to spread their nefarious activities, and executed several incidents of murders and arson in Jharkhand.

Dinesh was part of a criminal conspiracy to channelize the extorted funds collected from the

contractors/businessmen engaged in the developmental projects in Jharkhand. He was involved in investing these funds in dubious shell companies like M/S Palak Enterprises, M/s Shiv Adi Shakti, M/s Shiv Shakti Samridhi Infra Pvt. Ltd., M/s Bhavya Engicon, formed in partnership with other PLFI associates and his family members. The extorted money was also being transferred from Jharkhand to other places through a network of hawala operators.

In July 2007, Masi Charan Purty, a renegade of the CPI-Maoist, along with several of his followers, had joined Dinesh Gope in order to raise PLFI as a Naxal outfit. Though Masi Charan Purty was subsequently arrested, the PLFI spread its activities under Gope's command. He used to collect huge amounts of extortion money, which was further used to procure sophisticated weapons, including AK 47s and foreign made Rifles, such as HK 33.

