

Koda discharged, mining deals inked by him under scanner

Former Jharkhand chief minister Madhu Koda, who faces arrest on charges of laundering Rs.2,500 crore, was Sunday discharged from the Apollo Hospital here. Meanwhile, Income Tax (IT) authorities have started scrutinising the mining deals inked by Koda when he was in power.

'Madhu Koda has been discharged,' Apollo Hospital spokesperson Javed Akhtar told IANS.

Koda was hospitalised Nov 3 after he complained of severe stomach ache. An investigator had then said that Koda, independent MP from Singhbhum, was trying to buy time to evade arrest.

'We have informed the ED (Enforcement Directorate) about Koda being discharged. It is up to the ED to decide what they will do and it is also up to Madhu Koda when he decides to leave the hospital,' Akhtar added.

Koda faces arrest after the Income Tax department and ED exposed the scam running into thousands of crores of Rupees.

Income Tax authorities have started scrutinizing the mining deals signed when Koda was chief minister - between September 2006 and August 2008. Koda had kept the mines and geology department with himself. He was also mines and geology minister between March 2005 and September 2006 when Arjun Munda was chief minister.

Ajay Kumar, the Income Tax commissioner in Patna, arrived in