

CHAPTER XVIII : MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

18.1 Unfruitful expenditure due to inefficient planning

The Ministry procured (March 2008) eight Weigh-in-Motion cum Automatic Traffic Counter cum Classifiers. While two machines were commissioned after a delay of almost eight years, the remaining machines were still lying uninstalled.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (Ministry) procured eight Weigh-in Motion cum Automatic Traffic Counter cum Classifiers (WIM cum ATCC) from M/s International Road Dynamics Inc. Canada (Firm) at a cost of CAD \$ 462,659.00 (₹ 1.89 crore including transportation of ₹ 2.16 lakh) vide Ministry's purchase order dated 23 March, 2007 with the objective of assisting the control of overloading of vehicles and collection of electronic data. As per clause 7(b) of Contract Purchase Order (March 2007), it was agreed that the performance warranty for trouble free operation of each of the eight systems would be valid for eighteen calendar months or 1000 hours, whichever is earlier from the date of commissioning of the last system, against manufacturing design defects. As per terms of the contract, initial payment of 70 per cent of the price i.e. ₹ 1.30 crore was made to the firm in November 2007. The systems were to be installed in five states viz. Assam (01 no.), Chhattisgarh (01 no.), Goa (02 nos.), Karnataka (02 nos.), and Rajasthan (02 nos.). The supplier was responsible for providing technical assistance for installing and commissioning the systems. The Ministry discussed (July 2007) necessary technical description and capabilities of product with the concerned States and requested them to take appropriate action for preparation of the site. All eight systems were received and delivered to the designated consignees by March 2008. The two systems consigned to Goa were transferred to West Bengal vide transfer order dated 13 May 2009.

Scrutiny of the records revealed that only two systems were installed and commissioned (January 2016) at Hassan and Koppal in Karnataka, which were not handed over to the State Transport Department till January 2016. Remaining systems were not installed so far (December 2016). Audit further noticed that after incurring an expenditure of ₹ 0.87 crore on civil works in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, the system was transferred (September 2014) to Tamil Nadu. Thus due to inefficient planning and ineffective monitoring on the part

of the Ministry, six systems were not yet installed even after lapse of eight years from the date of procurement.

Ministry in their reply (December 2016) stated that installation and commissioning of the remaining systems was in progress. As regards wasteful expenditure of ₹ 0.87 crore incurred at Pratapgarh (Rajasthan), Ministry stated they would furnish their reply after receipt of a reply from its Project Zone dealing with the State of Rajasthan.

The reply indicated that due to inefficient planning and ineffective monitoring on the part of the Ministry, six systems were yet to be installed even after a period of eight years from the date of procurement. Thus, while the objective of collecting electronic data of axle load, aimed at preventing overloading, could not be achieved, the expenditure of ₹ 1.85¹ crore also remained unfruitful.

¹ Against the cost of ₹1.89 crore for 8 machines, Ministry released 70 *per cent* of ₹1.89 crore, i.e., ₹1.30 crore. Total unfruitful expenditure equals amount paid for 6 machines - ₹ 0.98 crore ((₹1.30 crore/8)*6) *plus* wasteful expenditure at Pratapgarh, Rajasthan - ₹ 0.87 crore.