

**CHAPTER XIV : MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS**

Department of Personnel and Training

Central Bureau of Investigation

14.1 Unauthorised and irregular expenditure

The CBI incurred an unauthorized expenditure of ` 96.48 lakh on purchase of 17 Chevrolet Tavera vehicles in replacement of its condemned vehicles in violation of the orders of the DoPT.

In pursuance of its decision for replacement of its condemned vehicles, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) approached the Department of Personnel and Training for necessary sanction in March 2008.

The DoPT in concurrence with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance conveyed its approval (June 2008) for replacement of the condemned vehicles subject to the conditions that (i) condemned vehicle of certain type (Car, Jeep, Van) will be replaced by a vehicle of a similar type and (ii) brand/make to be purchased should be on the approved list of Ministry of Finance.

Audit noted that the CBI purchased 17 Chevrolet Tavera in August 2008 at a cost of ` 96.48 lakh in lieu of its condemned vehicles which consisted primarily of Ambassador and Maruti gypsy vehicles. Further Chevrolet Tavera vehicles are not included in the approved list of vehicles of the Ministry of Finance. Thus the action of CBI was in violation of specific orders of the DoPT which allowed replacement of condemned vehicles by the vehicles of similar type. The PAO (CBI) also allowed the payment without ensuring compliance to the specific orders of DoPT. In the process, CBI incurred an extra expenditure of at least ` 21.60 lakh worked out with reference to the amount that would have been spent, had the condemned vehicles been replaced with the similar type of vehicles.

The Department stated (January and October 2010) that Tavera was a new generation vehicle having more seating capacity and economical and these were procured on obtaining the approval from its administrative Ministry.

The reply is an incorrect rationalization of an unauthorized and irregular purchase of vehicles which was contrary to the specific orders of the DoPT as well as Ministry of Finance which did not permit purchase of Tavera vehicles.