

# Massive fund misuse bleeds war on Naxals

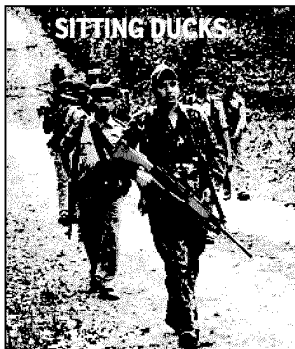
## CAG Flays States For Going Slow On Cop Training

Rukmini Shrinivasan | TIG

**New Delhi:** The deaths of 76 CRPF jawans in Dantewada highlighted the inadequate training of paramilitary forces, but the malaise may be more widespread. A report by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has found massive misuse and under-usage of funds earmarked for state police forces to combat Naxalism.

The CAG's Compendium of Performance Audit Reviews on Modernization of Police Force, released in 2009, tracks the progress of the MHA's modernization of state police forces scheme, a joint central-state scheme meant to help state police forces better tackle emerging challenges to internal security like Naxal violence.

The scheme, say the MHA, is intended to reduce the dependence of state police forces on the army and paramilitary forces. It covers the modernization of weaponry, training, communication systems, vehicles and buildings. As of 2005-06, the central share of assistance for J&K and the eight states of the North-



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East was 100%, while for other states it was a 75-25 share. For 2009-10, the central allocation was Rs 820 crore.

The CAG report evaluated the performance of states between 2000 and 2007, the period being different for different states. The report found the problems began right from the

planning stage, where every state has to submit an annual action plan to the MHA before funds can be released.

In Bihar, there were persistent delays in preparation of the plan by the state police. In West Bengal, the plans drawn up by the state did not include items covered under the scheme. In Andhra, the government spent Rs 32 crore on projects not covered by the annual action plan. After funds were sanctioned and released, there was clear misuse of funds. In UP, only 2,400 vehicles were procured against a shortage of 10,000 vehicles. But of these, 203 were Ambassador cars, even though only 55 were approved by MHA. There were considerable delays in construction of buildings in most states and consequently, the police force's own security was in jeopardy.

The CAG report also finds that the percentage of police personnel trained was very low and training infrastructure inadequate. In Bihar, only 10% of the force was trained. In West Bengal, live training was not imparted for handling weapons.