

CAG smells stamp scam in Assam as well

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Guwahati: History repeats itself and it seems, so does the Telgi scam. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India stated that investigations have revealed that stamps worth Rs 146.66 crores were missing from two treasury offices in Assam during 1993 and 2003, thus hinting at a fake stamp paper scam.

The CAG report for the last fiscal that was tabled in the assembly on Tuesday stated, "Adequate control over the activities of the vendors was completely absent in the state. As a result, possibilities of using fake stamp papers and consequent loss of revenue could not be ruled out."

According to the report, the Central Stamp Store Department in

Nasik dispatched 70,000 sheets of non-judicial impress stamps to the Nagaon treasury in 1993. Railway authorities in Guwahati, however, delivered 38,478 sheets between 1995 and 1996, while the remaining 31,522 sheets worth Rs 1.52 crores remained undelivered till CAG scrutiny in June, 2004. The report said the treasury officer of Nagaon neither lodged a complaint with the railway police nor claimed compensation.

Similarly, the railway authorities did not deliver 12,000 sheets of stamp, worth Rs 8 crores, which were dispatched by the Central Stamp Store Department to the Kamrup treasury. The Nagaon treasury received share transfer stamps worth Rs 10.80 crores in June 2000 without any indent, the CAG report added.