

# Jawans on civilian duty irk CAG

## Report Slams Home Ministry For 'Unauthorized' Posting Of Soldiers In Delhi

Vishwa Mohan | TNN

**New Delhi:** At a time when the country needs more jawans and logistics at the borders and in Naxal-affected areas to fight infiltrators and communist extremists, the government has attached additional security personnel from paramilitary forces—the BSF and CRPF—with different ministries and offices in the capital for non-security work. The anomaly in deployment “at the expense of operational requirement of field units” was highlighted by the comptroller and auditor general of India (CAG) in its report tabled in Parliament.

Calling it an “unauthorized attachment”, the CAG mentioned that the Union home ministry had, in fact, done this in violation of orders of the group of ministers on national security which strongly felt the need to deploy more personnel at borders and in violence-hit areas for security duties instead of wasting them for civilian duties. “The home ministry, rather than enforcing the orders of the GoM, joined the BSF and CRPF in irregular attachments by asking them (personnel) to work in the ministry,” CAG said in its report.

It said, “The unauthorised additional attachment constituted up to 168% of the authorised strength in the case of the BSF and 32% in the case

of the CRPF.”

Though home ministry officials favour such deployment at the forces' headquarters in the capital for differ-



The CAG has mentioned that the Union home ministry instead of hiring personnel for civilian work in Delhi had illegally deployed up to 168% of BSF jawans authorised to be posted in the capital at a time

ent reasons, including giving the security personnel some break from “hard” duties, the GoM which was set up in the wake of the Kargil war had stressed the

need for recruiting more personnel for civilian work and rotation of postings instead of ‘poaching’ trained personnel who were needed for specialized security jobs. “The persistent unauthorized attachment by directors-general of BSF and CRPF undermined the sanctity of the government sanction of posts in different categories for duties in the headquarters and field units,” the CAG report said.

It also pointed out that the strength of personnel in the BSF and CRPF headquarters and Delhi field offices of its DGs was too high in comparison to the sanctioned strength as they consistently withdrew a large number of personnel from their normal places of duty in the field and attached them to the headquarters here for several years.

An official, however, said the practice would end once the paramilitary forces—CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF and SSB—complete the process of raising new battalions. Nearly 100 new battalions (over 1 lakh personnel) will be raised by all these forces together in the next two years, he added. The report also mentioned that the current practice caused huge losses to the exchequer not only due to “irregular over-drawing” of personnel from field formations and posting them in Delhi offices of their DGs but also due to diversion of logistics.