

# CAG report raps SAI

**Biswajyoti Brahma | TNN**

**New Delhi:** In a country where sportspersons cry hoarse over lack of funds, the body formed to promote sports, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), has been found guilty of wasting huge sums of money by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The CAG report for 2005-06 says SAI paid a penalty of Rs 1.95 crore for not maintaining power factor at the prescribed level at the Indira Gandhi Stadium and even paid Rs 12.75 lakh for its failure to pursue a lottery case properly in the court. SAI has also been pulled up for not utilising equipment worth Rs 1.1 crore purchased between 1998 to 2004.

The report also states that the body incurred "irregular expenditure" of Rs 72.03 lakh on vehicles and mobile phones provided to its chairperson, vice-chairperson and their personal staff during 2000 to 2005.

On the Indira Gandhi Sta-

dium issue, the report says SAI was forced to pay an amount close to Rs two crore after the erstwhile Delhi Vidyut Board levied low power factor surcharge on it for "use of defective shunt capacitors" while drawing power for the stadium.

The report observed that "the expenditure could have been avoided, had SAI taken timely action to acquire and maintain the shunt capacitors and regulate power supply."

Interestingly, SAI did not install a power factor improvement panel, costing around Rs 56 lakh, in 1993 due to the "high cost of the panel", but ended up paying a penalty of Rs 1.95 crore. CAG report also says equipment worth millions of rupees is lying unutilised at SAI sub-centre in Guwahati and Netaji Subhas Southern Centre in Bangalore.

It also questioned the wisdom in importing a machine costing Rs 20.76 lakh in 1988 for making clay pigeons for shoot-

ers. The machine was idle after 1995 after making 3.13 lakh pigeons.

SAI, as the report said, later admitted that manufacturing of clay pigeons through the machine was not found economical in comparison to imported ones. "Apparently, this aspect was not considered by SAI at the time of purchase of the equipment," the report pointed out.

Audit reports have confirmed that SAI spent Rs 22.49 lakh during 2000 to 2004 on use of hired vehicles provided to Union and State ministers of youth affairs and sports as well as to their personal staff.

It incurred Rs 7.44 lakh from 1997-98 to 2002-03 on mobile phones given to chairperson, vice-chairperson and their personal assistants and officers on special duties attached to them. In addition, another Rs 42.01 lakh was spent during 2000 to 2005 on maintenance and petrol for staff cars provided to the ministers.