

CAG to see Bofors files

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NEW DELHI, February 9: Mr V. P. Singh, in his capacity as the defence minister, has upturned the previous government's decision by allowing the comptroller and auditor general of India to see the files again on the nature of transactions relating to the Bofors gun deal.

The official spokesperson told journalists today that the defence ministry had received requests from the CAG for re-submission of a number of files earlier studied by the audit based on which the audit had prepared a report which was critical of several aspects of the Bofors transaction.

The defence ministry had initially taken the line that the CAG having already submitted its report to parliament, it was now in its jurisdiction to deal with the matter. This was the position in the previous government.

The spokesperson said these papers were put up to the Prime Minister in his capacity as defence minister. As a result of this review it was decided that having regard to the nature of the transactions in the purchase of the Bofors howitzer guns, these files could be shown again to the audit, if required, as a special case.

The CAG had asked for the files in September 1989 to take a second look at them. The previous government decided not to allow this.