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AG's Sectt: (AU)

NPL

93 ... Date 14/2/20

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS DATED 13 FEBRUARY 2020

# CAG findings accuse state police of covering up shortfall in ammunition

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
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HIGH-END luxury cars were procured in the guise of Mobile Command and Control Vehicles. Even the bullet-resistant vehicles purchased were deployed for VIP security instead of operation in Naxal infested areas. Five out of 481 local police station do not have a light motor vehicle. The report also questioned the purchases made without calling open tender in the purchase of two bullet-resistant vehicles in 2017. The performance audit covering the period 2013-2018 was conducted between May 2018 and October 2018. Behera became SPC in June 2016 immediately after the Left govern-

ment under Pinarayi Vijayan assumed office. Behera, a 1985-batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, is due for retirement in 2021. There were reports that he is being considered for a senior post with the CBI or NIA. Now, with major corruption charges against him, his prospects could be affected.

## The Missing Bullets

The audit report accused the Police department of covering up the shortfall of ammunition in a joint verification conducted at Special Armed Police Battalion in Thiruvananthapuram. No action was taken against culprits responsible for the loss of ammunition.

It has been found that 25 IN-SAS rifles and 12,061 live cartridges have been missing over the years. The loss of arms and

ammunition is a serious issue with implications on state security, noted the report.

The department also lost the opportunity to buy modern weapons by placing orders for weapons not in production line of Ordnance Factory Board.

The delay in disposal of cases at Forensic Science Laboratories, irregularities in implementing electronic beat system, flouting of store purchase manual in procurement were lapses pointed out in the report.

The report found there were at least four instances in which there was a clear nexus between officers of the Police department, vendors and Keltron, a public sector unit which acted as a total solution provider, in fixation of prices resulting in pecuniary losses.