Spaced out losses? CAG begins probe into Isro-Deval deal

EVErysone is interested in the Rs 3,700-crore loss Isro suffered on its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PeLV) deal with Deval, but the only — and perhaps the only — fly in the ointment for Isro is that the Rs 3,800-crore general issue defense (GID) that the government got from Isro last year may also prove to be another black hole. "This is a black hole of Rs 3,800 crore, but the mistake made is not with Isro, it is with the government," says a former scientific secretary to Isro, who is a former scientific secretary to Isro, and has denied any such fixed amount. He says that there may be any number of factors that contribute to the loss, but the most obvious one is the lack of proper monitoring and control. "The government should have asked Isro to monitor the project, but they didn’t," he says.

The report has been submitted to the government, and the government is yet to respond.

Ventures into the unknown

Several experts have pointed out that the government has been too hasty in approving the Rs 3,800-crore GID, without properly understanding the implications. "The government should have sought more information from Isro before approving the GID," says a former scientific secretary to Isro. "They should have asked for a detailed plan of how the money would be spent, and what would be the expected returns. But they didn’t," he says.

Another expert points out that the government has been too quick to give away the GID, without understanding the implications. "The government should have sought more information from Isro before approving the GID," says a former scientific secretary to Isro. "They should have asked for a detailed plan of how the money would be spent, and what would be the expected returns. But they didn’t," he says.

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