

**OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF VALUATION
7th FLOOR, ANNEXE BUILDING, NEW CUSTOM HOUSE,
BALLARD ESTATE, MUMBAI – 400 001**

F.No.DGVAL/CONF/RTI/APP/17/2025-RTI

आदेश की तारीख / Date of order: As e-signed.

जारी करने की तिथि / Date of issue: As e-signed.

Addressee: सेवा मे / To,

प्रस्तावना /PREAMBLE

1. इस आदेश की एक प्रति उस व्यक्ति को निः शुल्क प्रदान की जाती है जिसे यह जारी किया गया है।

1. A copy of this order is provided free of cost to the person to whom it is issued.

2. इस आदेश के विरुद्ध श्रीमती श्वेता चंदर, , अपर आयुक्त, प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी, मूल्यांकन महानिदेशालय, 7 वीं मंजिल, एनेक्सी, न्यू कस्टम हाउस, बल्लार्ड एस्टेट, मुंबई -400001 के पास अपील की जा सकती है। (द्विभाष सं. 22- 22634521)

2. An appeal against this order shall lie with Smt. Shweta Chander, Additional Commissioner, the First Appellate Authority, Directorate General of Valuation, 7th Floor, Annexe Building, New Custom House, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400001 (Tel. No.022-22634521).

3. सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के प्रावधान के अनुसार इस पत्र की प्राप्ति की तारीख से 30 दिनों के भीतर अपील दायर की जानी चाहिए।

3. The Appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter as provided in Right to Information Act, 2005.

4. अपील अपीलीय प्राधिकारी को व्यक्तिगत रूप से या इस उद्देश्य के लिए नामित अधिकारियों के माध्यम से या पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा या ऑनलाइन आरटीआई पोर्टल के माध्यम से प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है।

4. Appeal may be submitted to the Appellate Authority in person or through the officers nominated for this purpose or by registered post or through online RTI portal.

Sub: Online RTI Registration No. DGVAL/R/T/25/00006 dated 18.09.2025
filed by _____

– reg.

An online RTI request application bearing Registration No.DGVAL/R/T/25/00006 dated 18.09.2025 filed by _____ electronically transferred by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, vide Reference No.CBECC/R/E/25/00564 dated 18.09.2025 seeking information under Right to Information Act 2005, was received on the RTI portal on 18.09.2025.

(ii). The RTI applicant has filed above referred application for seeking information which is re-produced as under: -

"I am writing to seek information under the provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, concerning the misuse of government staff cars, specifically with regard to the rules outlined in the Department of Expenditure OM No. 18(23)/E.Coord-2021 dated 01.09.2022.

According to OM No. 18(23)/E.Coord-2021, only Joint Secretaries and Heads of Departments and above officers are permitted to use staff cars for commuting between their residences and offices, only if they have not claimed the transport allowance. It has been observed that officers below the rank of Joint Secretary or Head of Department are also utilizing staff cars for commuting between their residences and offices, which constitutes a clear and deliberate violation of the established government guidelines

Additionally, it appears that the prescribed procedure for the scrutiny of the staff car log books, as stated in Para 7.2 of the OM, is not being adhered to, with no certificates being recorded confirming the proper scrutiny by the senior officer (preferably the Joint Secretary). It appears that there is collusion between Joint Secretaries or Head of the departments and officers at lower levels regarding the misuse of staff cars, indicating a systemic problem rather than isolated instances of misconduct.

It also appears that more cars are being hired than are actually required, primarily to facilitate their misuse for personal purposes. Such unnecessary expenditure results in a direct wastage of public funds which, could have been saved and redirected towards genuine public welfare like roads, hospitals, and schools.

If government officials were running a private company, they would never permit such misuse of staff cars. Yet government officials permit it freely simply because these vehicles are not their property. They don't feel accountability for public property. This reflects a careless disregard for taxpayer money. Officials must be reminded that their salaries and privileges come from the public exchequer, and they are duty-bound to use such resources responsibly and remain fully accountable to the citizens they serve.

In a democracy, *public servants are trustees of public resources*—they are supposed to serve the people, not misuse power or privileges. When they misuse public money, staff cars, or other resources, it is indeed a **breach of trust** because:

- Those resources are funded by taxpayers.
- They are meant strictly for official duties, not personal use.
- It undermines public faith in governance when misuse goes unchecked.

When ordinary citizens break rules, the law acts swiftly with fines, penalties, or even imprisonment. Yet when some public officials misuse their position, action is often rare, delayed, or absent—shielded by an ‘officers’ bias’ that can be even more damaging than divisions of caste or religion. This unequal application of the law amounts to discrimination.

Government officials must first adhere to the rules themselves before expecting the public to comply. For laws to be respected, those entrusted with their enforcement must lead by example. It is wholly unreasonable to demand discipline from citizens while government officers openly and blatantly disregard the very rules they are duty-bound to uphold.

Citizens feel empowered when their taxes are treated as an investment in common goods such as roads, schools, hospitals, safety, and justice, seeing themselves as co-owners of the nation with a rightful say in how resources are used. However, when taxes are merely extracted and then wasted or misused by those in power, people are left feeling not like citizens but like subjects—ruled over rather than represented.

Therefore, I request the following information under RTI Act for the month of July-2025 from all the offices, which have staff cars:

1. The total number of staff cars available in the office.
2. Copies of the staff car log books.
3. The names and designations of officers availing staff car facilities for travel between their residences and offices.
4. The names and designations of officers at the level of Joint Secretary/ Head of Department or above who have not received transport allowance.
5. Copies of the certificates regarding scrutiny of staff car log books by Joint Secretaries or Heads of Departments, as required under para 7.2 of OM No.18(23)/E.Coord-2021.
6. Information regarding instances where officers below the level of Joint Secretary/Head of Department have used staff cars for home-to-office travel, long with justifications provided for such usage (if any).
7. Details of any disciplinary action taken against officers found misusing Staff cars in violation of the prescribed guidelines.
8. Please provide information on whether security personnel or any other staff are instructed to verify and/or record the names of officers arriving in staff cars while entering the office premises.

9. CCTV camera footage from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. showing the location where officers usually alight from staff cars, on any working day—preferably **4th July 2025**, or, if unavailable, on any other working day, in any month.

I would appreciate it if you could provide the requested information within the time limit stipulated under the RTI Act, 2005."

(iii). The point wise compliance is as under (for the month of July-2025):

1. This office does not have any owned staff car. However, there are 2 staff cars hired by this office in terms of letter No.8/B/10(147)/HRD/EMC/2017/Pt dated 14.08.2017 issued by the DGHRD. One for the Director General of Valuation and one for the Principal Commissioner, DG Valuation.
2. All staff cars in this Directorate for the entitled officers are being hired as per the instructions issued by DGHRD letter No.8/B/10(147)/HRD/EMC/2017/Pt dated 14.08.2017 with a fixed cost ceiling and kilometre ceiling of 2,500 km/month in terms of DGHRD Vehicle Policy bearing No.8/B/ 10(125)HRD/EMC/2017 dated 04.12.2017.
3. Shri Sunil Jain, Director General of Valuation & Shri Narendra V. Kulkarni, Commissioner, DG Valuation.
4. Shri Sunil Jain, Director General and Shri Narendra V. Kulkarni, Commissioner.
5. Not applicable as none of the staff cars are owned by the Directorate and the staff cars are hired on a fixed cost ceiling and kilometre ceiling of 2,500 km/month in terms of DGHRD Vehicle Policy mentioned in Para 2 above.
6. No officers below the rank of Joint Secretary/Head of Department have used staff cars for home to office travel.
7. No disciplinary action taken against the officers as none of them found misusing staff cars in violation of the prescribed guidelines.
8. There are no such instructions issued by the DGHRD regarding verification or recording names of officers arriving in staff cars while entering the office premises hence this information is not available with this office.

9. This office has not installed any CCTV cameras in the area where the officers usually alight from the staff car. Hence, this information is not available with this office.

4. Accordingly, the RTI Registration No.DGVAL/R/T/25/00006 dated 18.09.2025 filed by stands disposed of.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by

Yogesh Kumar

Date: 06-10-2025

11:16:55

(Yogesh Kumar)

Assistant Commissioner & CPIO