

Irregularities detected in customs' auction bank account

Directorate of Internal Audit (Customs) has detected serious financial irregularities in auction bank account of Pakistan customs as auction money amounting in millions has unlawfully been withdrawn during tax year 2016-17. This was disclosed in a letter (C. no 76-IA/T2/DEC/2017/56) sent to Model Customs Collectorate (MCC), Preventive on February 13, 2018.

The Directorate through letter stated that bank statement of customs' auction bank account for year 2016-17 showed that around Rs 177.307 million was transferred and the department appeared toothless to provide supportive documents regarding the details of bank account or person to whom the said amount was transferred. Similarly, around Rs 9.223 million was withdrawn from the said bank account however, the concerned authorities yet not furnished any documentary evidence or authority from whose orders such amount was debited.

It further said that the audit team also found that such huge government money was missing from auction bank account with no reason as the Collectorate was unable to produce supportive documents or cogent reasons against the said withdrawal. Moreover, the Directorate said that the Collectorate had also not transferred auction money amounting to Rs 4.833 million despite the lapse of more than a year with no reasonable justification.

When contacted, Collector MCC Preventive Dr Iftikhar expressed his incognizance of the letter of the Directorate of Internal Audit (Customs), which sought a detailed explanation from the Collectorate about such serious financial irregularities.

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