



TEA BOARD

14, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj Sarani
Kolkata-700001

Dated: 07.06.2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM NO.63/2024

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the Office Memorandum No. 31011/11/2023-Pers.Policy A-IV dated 20th October, 2023 along with its enclosure issued by Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Govt. of India regarding modification of instructions with regard to booking of Air Tickets on Government Account requesting for strict compliance of the Govt.'s directives as detailed in the enclosed Office Memorandum at the time of booking of Air Tickets for tour on LTC by all officials of the Tea Board.

Encl : As stated.

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(Dr. Rishikesh Rai)
Secretary (I/C)

Distribution :-

1.	All HoDs in Board's Head Office, Kolkata(excepting Dy. Chairman & Secretary)	With the request to please bring the contents of this Office Memorandum amongst all officials working under them.
2.	The Executive Director, Coonoor & Guwahati	
3.	FA & CAO	
4.	All Zonal/Regional/Sub-Regional Offices of the Tea Board	
5.	P.As to Dy. Chairman, FA & CAO & Secretary.	
6.	IT Cell	With the request to upload in Board's website.
7.	TBEA	
8.	Estt. Branch	
9.	Secretariat Branch	With spare copies

Ref. File No.23(30)/Estt/2016

F. No. 31011/11/2023 - Pers. Policy A-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
Pers. Policy A-IV Desk

North Block, New Delhi.
Dated: 20th October, 2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Modifications in instructions on booking of Air Tickets on Government Account in respect of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) – reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's OM No. 31011/12/2022-Estt.A-IV dated 29.08.2022 regarding instructions on booking of Air Tickets in respect of Leave Travel Concession (LTC). The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has been receiving a number of representations seeking clarifications on issues relating to the settlement of claims, particularly of those government employees who have not retained the screenshot of the concerned webpage of the authorised travel Agents (ATAs) during the booking of air tickets, as provided under the OM dated 29.8.2022 referred to above.

2. In view of the above, the matter has been examined and with the approval of competent authority, the following changes/modifications in the prescribed procedure are made for the convenience of Government employees: -

(i) All three authorized travel agents, viz. M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL), M/s Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT), and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) are to display the details of the flight having the cheapest fare and the flight(s) having the fare 10% more than the cheapest fare only, in the desired time slot, at the time of booking the air tickets by the Government employees for the purpose of LTC journey. Therefore, the booking of air ticket for the purpose of LTC on the website of these three authorized travel agents shall itself be a proof that the ticket booked by the individual government employee was of the cheapest fare as provided under the guidelines.

(ii) All three authorized agents shall indicate the word 'LTC' on tickets issued for the LTC journey; and

(iii) In all cases wherein the non-entitled Government employees are to travel by air under Special Dispensation Scheme directly from their Headquarters/place of posting to the place of visit in NER/J&K/A&N/Ladakh, the Government employees shall continue to take the print-out of the concerned webpage having flight and fare details of the flight for relevant railhead viz. Kolkata/ Guwahati/ Delhi/Amritsar/ Chennai/ Vishakhapatnam to the place of visit viz. NER or UT of J&K or UT of Ladakh or UT of A&N within the same time-slot where the direct flight has been booked for the purpose of reimbursement. In case the flight tickets are not available in the same slot, the print out of the details of the flights available in the next slot may be retained for the purpose of settlement of claims, as provided under Point (ii) of the title

"Provisions for Reimbursement" in OM dated 29.8.2022, referred to above.

3. Further, all the three ATAs have also been directed to allow the registration of those employees who do not have official email accounts provided their administrative office sends their details depicting their names, employee code no., private email IDs and mobile numbers, etc. to the travel agents for the purpose of booking the air tickets in respect of LTC journey.

4. For the sake of convenience, the links of the three authorized travel agents are as below:

(i) 'M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited', BLCL (<https://govemp.balmerlawrietravelapp.com>), (ii) 'M/s Ashok Travels & Tours', 'ATT' (<https://www.attitdc.in>) and (iii) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd., 'IRCTC' (<https://www.air.irctc.co.in>).

5. All the Ministries/Departments are once again advised to bring it to the notice of all their employees that any misuse of LTC shall be viewed seriously and appropriate action as deemed fit under the relevant rules will be taken against the defaulting employees. In order to keep a check on any kind of misuse of LTC, Ministries/Departments are advised to randomly get some of the air tickets submitted by the officials verified by the airlines concerned with regard to the actual cost of air travel vis-a-vis the cost indicated on the air tickets submitted by the officials.

6. Hindi version will follow.

(Satish Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel: 2304 0341

To

1. M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL), Core-8, Ground Floor, Scope Complex, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
2. M/s Ashok Travels & Tours (AT&T), Room No. 506, 5th Floor, Core-8, Scope Complex, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
3. Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), 9th floor, Bank of Baroda Building, 16, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Copy to:

1. All Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India
(As per the standard list)
2. Comptroller & Auditor General of India, New Delhi.
3. Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi.
4. Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi.
5. Central Bureau of Investigation, New Delhi.

F. No. 31011/12/2022-Estt.A-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
Establishment A-IV Desk

North Block, New Delhi.
Dated 29th August, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Instructions on booking of Air Tickets on Government Account in respect of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) – regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to state that in view of the disinvestment of Air India and the consolidated instructions issued consequently by Department of Expenditure vide O.M. No. 19024/03/2021-E.IV dated 16.06.2022, which is also applicable in case of air journey in respect of LTC, it has been decided that:

- i. In all cases of air travel in respect of LTC, air tickets shall be purchased only from the three Authorized Travel Agents (ATAs), namely:
 - (a) M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL),
 - (b) M/s Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT),
 - (c) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC).
- ii. The choice of the travel agent for booking of ticket from the three authorized travel agents is left open to the Ministry/Department and the official in case of self booking, based on convenience and service quality. No agency charges/convenience fees will be paid to these ATAs.
- iii. Government employees are to choose flight having the **Best Available Fare** on their entitled travel class which is the **Cheapest Fare** available, preferably for Non-stop flight in a given slot, mentioned below, at the time of booking. They are to retain the print-out of the concerned webpage of the ATAs having flight and fare details for the purpose of the settlement of the LTC claims.
 - (a) On the day of travel in the desired 3 hours' slot of following time band – 00:00 hours to 03:00 hours, 03:00 hours to 06:00 hours, 06:00 hours to 09:00 hours, 09:00 hours to 12:00 hours, 12:00 hours to 15:00 hours, 15:00 hours to 18:00 hours, 18:00 hours to 21:00 hours, 21:00 hours to 24:00 hours.
 - (b) With provision of optimizing within a 10% price band, for convenience and comfort.
- iv. Employees are encouraged to book flight tickets at least 21 days prior to the intended date of travel on LTC, to avail the most competitive fares and minimize burden on the exchequer.

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