



कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मुख्य कार्यालय/Head Office
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Vig/Coord/CVC-Correspondence/Part-File/2020

DATE : 23/06/2021

To

1. All ACC(HQ)/ACC(Incharge of Zone)/ Director PDNASS/ ACC(HQ) ASD in Head Office.
2. All RPF (Incharge of Regional Office).

Sub: Corrupt practices adopted by private travel agencies by claiming inflated amount from the government organisations- reg.

Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed herewith CVC Circular SI. No. 010/VGL/044 dated 03.03.2021 on the captioned subject.

It is requested to ensure strict compliance of the systemic checks and measures advised by the CVC in the scrutiny of bills of private travel agencies, as stated in para 6 of the circular.

(This issues with the approval of the CVO)

Enclosure: As above.

Yours' faithfully,

(Maruti Bhoyi)
Addl. Central P.F. Commissioner (Vigilance)

Copy to:
1. NDC for web circulation

154939/2021/VIGILANCE

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सत्यमेव जयते

केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION



सतर्कता भवन, जी.पी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
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Satarkta Bhawan, G.P.O. Complex,
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सं./No..... 010/VGL/044
03.03.2021

दिनांक / Dated.....

To,
The Chief Vigilance Officers

Subject:- Corrupt practices adopted by private travel agencies by claiming inflated amount from the govt. organisations-reg.

Department of Expenditure, vide their Office Memorandum No. 19024/22/2017-E.IV dated 19.07.2017 has issued guidelines on 'Air Travel on Official Tours and purchase of air ticket from authorized agents' (which is available at the link <https://doe.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guidlines Air Travel 19.07.2017.pdf>). These guidelines specify that tickets for air travel in respect of official tours are to be purchased either directly from the Airlines or through the 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).

2. The aforementioned guidelines of D/o Expenditure are applicable to the ministries/departments of Govt. of India. The Central Public Sector Enterprises, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, other Financial Institutions etc. are not covered under the guidelines.

3. Recently, a case relating to a Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) has come to the notice of the Central Vigilance Commission. It has been noticed that a private travel agency was empanelled by the CPSE concerned for booking tickets for official tours by its employees and the agency's term was extended from time to time, without taking due care. Later on, during the verification of one of the invoices presented by the private travel agency, it was revealed that the amount indicted in the invoice was inflated. On a close scrutiny of past bills and invoices, it was found that the private travel agency had been continuously submitting inflated, forged and fabricated claims, which went undetected.

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4. In this regard, the following information may be provided to the Commission:-
- (i) It may be confirmed whether the air tickets purchased through M/s Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd., M/s Ashok Travels and Tours and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (three agencies, authorized by D/o Expenditure), for official tours are at subsidized rates or at par with the open market rates.
 - (ii) In case, private travel agencies have been empanelled by the organizations, whether the option of purchase of air tickets directly from the Airlines has been kept as an option or not. The private travel Agency has been engaged after following due procedure and extensions, if any, given as per prescribed procedure.
 - (iii) It may also be confirmed whether the bills/invoices submitted by the private travel agencies are comparable with the rates being offered by the Airlines, on purchase of tickets directly by them.
5. The above information may be provided to the Commission latest by 31.03.2021 by the concerned CVOs in their QPR.
6. Further, the organizations may also carry out scrutiny of bills/invoices submitted by the private travel agency, for which payment has been made or are under process, to confirm whether inflated/forged bills have been presented. If any instance of this nature comes to notice, the same may be dealt with strictly. An appropriate mechanism may be adopted to verify the genuineness of the claims being submitted by the private travel agencies so that inflated or fabricated claims are detected irregularities are avoided in future.



(Rajiv Verma)
Officer on Special Duty