

## CHAPTER II : MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

### Indian Agricultural Research Institute

#### 2.1 Reimbursement of fraudulent Leave Travel Concession claims

**Employees of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute submitted fabricated Leave Travel Concession claims leading to irregular reimbursement of ₹ 7.06 lakh.**

The Office Memorandum dated 26 September 2014 issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Ministry) stipulates that “all eligible government servants may avail Leave Travel Concession (LTC) to visit any place in North East Region/Andaman & Nicobar Islands/Jammu & Kashmir against conversion of one block of their Home Town LTC. The Government servants entitled to travel by air can avail this LTC from their Headquarters in Economy Class. Air travel is to be performed only by Air India in Economy Class and at LTC-80 fare or less. Air tickets should be purchased directly from the airlines (Booking counters, website of airlines) or by utilising the services of authorised travel agents viz. M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company, M/s Ashok Travels & Tours and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation”.

Test-check of LTC records of the employees of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) for 2014-15 and 2015-16 disclosed fudging of claims by four of its employees<sup>1</sup> who performed air journeys to Andaman & Nicobar Islands by Air India. Audit compared the claims submitted by the employees with the details made available by the airline and found that the bills furnished with the claims were fabricated. The fares claimed by the employees were higher than the amount actually paid to the airline. Further, the air tickets in these cases were booked through private agents in violation of extant rules/instructions. This resulted in irregular reimbursement of claims amounting to ₹ 7.06 lakh.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Chief Technical Officers, 1 Technical Officer and 1 Senior Scientist.

On this being pointed out (June 2016), IARI stated (September 2016) that action for recovery of the lump sum payment made to the employees had been initiated.

The matter was reported to the Ministry in July 2016; their reply was awaited as of January 2017.