ORDER

Whereas, Smt. Ratika Sethi, TGT(English) was charge sheeted vide Memorandum No.DE/54/6/(2-124)/DDE/SWB/ Vig/2014/DP/1554 dated 26.11.2014 under rule 14 of CCS(CCA) Rules, 1965 with the following articles of charge:

Article-I

Smt. Ratika Sethi, TGT(English) while working in SKV, Sector-1, Pocket-7 Dwarka, New Delhi has Air Tickets bearing PNR no. RDVQCR issued by Spice Jet Airline. She has claimed Rs. 82800/- as air fare against her LTC claim for self and her family members for the block year 2010-13 to visit Bagdogra on the basis of forged & fabricated air tickets showing excess amount than the actual amount of the ticket.

Thus by doing such said act, she has failed to maintain absolute integrity and acted in manner of unbecoming of a Govt. servant in violation of provision of Rule 3 of CCS(Conduct) Rules, 1964 and LTC Rules, 1988 thereby rendering her liable to action under Rule 14 of CCS(CCA) rules, 1965.

Article-II

That the said Smt. Ratika Sethi, TGT(English) while working on the aforesaid post and during the aforesaid period, committed misconduct in as much as she purchased/booked the air tickets for LTC from an unauthorized travel agent in violation to the guidelines issued by Govt. Of India, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. Of Expenditure vide Memorandum No. 19024/1/2009-E-IV dt. 16 Sept. 2010.

Thus by doing such said act, she had failed to maintain absolute integrity and acted in manner of unbecoming of a Govt. servant in violation of provision of Rule 3 of CCS(Conduct) Rules, 1964 and LTC Rules, 1988 thereby rendering her liable to action under Rule 14 of CCS(CCA) rules, 1965.
And whereas, Smt. Sneh Lata Dimri, Vice Principal, GGSSS No. 2, Najafgarh, New Delhi was appointed as Inquiry Officer and Smt. Manju Rani, GR-III(DASS)/UDC, G(co-ed) SSS, Sector-VI, Dwarka, New Delhi was appointed as Presenting Officer, in the case vide orders dated 18-12-2014. Due to administrative reasons, Presenting Officer was changed in the case and Sh. Dinesh Kumar Sinha, UDC, SKV, Dhansa, Delhi was appointed as Presenting Officer vide order dated 03-01-2015.

And whereas, the Inquiring Authority has submitted inquiry report dated 20-07-2015 thereby concluding both the articles of charge framed against the Charged Official as proved which was accepted by the then competent authority.

And whereas, the inquiry report has been served upon the Charged Official for making his representation, if any thereupon, vide memo dated 17-06-2016. The Charged Officer filed her representation dated 16.7.2016 on inquiry report submitting that this was the first time that she has availed LTC during her entire service and no advance has been claimed in this regard.

And whereas, the Charged Official has further submitted that revelation of the tickets being false and fabricated was very shocking for her and her family. The Charged Official has requested to pardon her for the same as it was without any malafide intentions and was due to ignorance.

And whereas, the undersigned has carefully gone through the chargesheet memo, Inquiry Report and other relevant record of the case adduced before me.

And whereas, perusal of the record reveals that the Charged Official has availed LTC for the block 2010-13 along with her family members by visiting Bagdogra and had submitted air tickets of Rs. 20700/- per head while making LTC claim for the said journey. On verification of said air tickets from Spicejet Limited, it was confirmed by the Executive-Customer Relations of the said airline that the actual fare of the tickets submitted by the Charged Official was Rs. 14962/- each i.e. much less than the amount claimed by the Charged Official. Thus, the tickets submitted by the Charged Official were manipulated and fabricated and the onus of submitting the said fabricated tickets lies on the Charged Official himself only and not on anybody else.
And whereas, as per instructions of Govt. of India on the subject matter, the air tickets are to be purchased directly from Airlines (at booking counters/website of airlines) or by utilizing the services of authorized travel agents. Thus, the Charged Official has clearly failed to follow the instructions of the Govt. while availing LTC for the block 2010-13 by booking air tickets from an un-authorised agent.

And whereas, contention of the Charged Official that all happened due to ignorance, does not absolve her of the charge framed against her as unawareness of the LTC regulations is of no excuse.

And whereas, in view of above, the findings of the Inquiry Officer are found to be based on the facts and evidences in the case and the undersigned is fully satisfied with the same.

Now, therefore, taking into consideration the facts and all the relevant record of the case, I, Saumya Gupta, Director of Education being the Disciplinary Authority, hereby impose a penalty of reduction in pay by one stage in the time scale of pay for a period of one year with non-cumulative effect upon Smt. Ratika Sethi, TGT(English), SKV, Sector-1, Pocket-7 Dwarka, New Delhi. Further, the LTC claim preferred by the Charged Official for the block 2010-13 is forfeited and as per provisions of rule 16 of CCS(LTC) Rules, 1988, it is also ordered that the official would not be allowed the next two sets of the leave travel concession from the block 2010-13.

I order accordingly.

(Saumya Gupta)
Director(Education)

Smt. Ratika Sethi, TGT(English)
SKV, Sector-1, Pocket-7 Dwarka, New Delhi
through DDE(South-West-B)

No. DE.7/394/TGT/Vig./HQ/2015/3555 - 60

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:
1) DDE(South-West-B), Dte. of Education, Delhi.
2) ADE(E-III), Dte. of Education, Delhi.
3) HOS/DDO/PAO concerned through DDE (South West-B).
4) OS(IT), Dte. of Education, Delhi.
5) Guard file.

(A.K. Gupta)
Dy. Director of Edn.(Vig.)