

Aqua Line staff strike work, commuters hit

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Noida: The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) on Wednesday filed a complaint against a private security firm that provides security at all Aqua Line metro stations, after some its staff refused to frisk commuters and sent them away for about an hour in morning in protest over non-payment of salaries.

Officials said five staff members of the firm deployed at five stations — sectors 81, 83, 137 and 101 and NSEZ — stopped work and sent commuters away between 6am and 8am on Wednesday. While not many commuters were affected, it was a serious security lapse seen on part of the private company, they added.

“I got to know around 7am that security staff had been stopping commuters from entering the station and creating ruckus at sectors 81, 83 and 137 stations. We informed the station staff of PAC to take over and stop them immediately. Since our peak hours start only after 8am, not many commuters were disturbed,” said PD Upadhyay, executive director, NMRC.

He added that several commuters were left stranded in the morning and had to avail of other modes of transportation to reach their destination. “Commuters were stopped from entering after buying tickets. They lost

Five staff members of a private security firm deployed at 5 stations sent commuters away between 6am and 8am on Wednesday

time during the morning rush hour to reach office. This is unacceptable behaviour and was not even brought to our knowledge beforehand,” Upadhyay said.

The private security provider, Ironman Security Services Private Limited, has issued an apology stating that no guard or staff will go on strike again and committed that salaries of all employees will be paid by the seventh of every month. About 125 staff of ISSPL have been hired by NMRC.

“We have never had issues with payment of salaries before and there was just a minor issue related to payment of just about five staff where bank transfer was unsuccessful. We only got to know of the disturbance at two stations that was quickly controlled,” said Harendra Chaudhary, chairman and managing director of ISSPL.

Meanwhile, Phase 2 police station officers said a complaint has been filed on charges of assault or criminal force to deter public servants from discharge of duty, and a “probe is going on”.