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VIRENDRA SINGH GOSAIN/HT FILE

Aqua Line services disrupted as security staff refuse to work

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NOIDA: The services on Aqua Line of the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) were disrupted on Wednesday for two hours between 6am and 8am after the security staff responsible for the frisking of passengers refused to work at five stations on the line over salary issues.

Many commuters were left stranded and had to resort to other modes of transport to reach their destinations, NMRC officials said.

According to the officials, main reason behind the strike was the non-payment of salary dues to the employees of Ironman Security Services, the company hired by the NMRC for looking after the security at stations on the Aqua Line.

"They refused to carry out frisking of passengers and abandoned their positions. This caused a lot of inconvenience to passengers as they could not enter without security checks," PD Upadhyay, NMRC executive director said in a statement.

Taking cognisance of this lapse in security, the NMRC has asked the company to submit an explanation of this incident.

"The NMRC has also asked for strict action against the erring employees so as to avoid such incidents in the future. A warning has also been issued to the company," the NMRC statement said.

An NMRC's letter to the company has said that the incident was in violation of terms of reference and was taken on record.

"This is the first warning for the company. Any lapse in the future will lead to the disqualification of the company in the participation of any future work of NMRC," the letter said.

Ironman Security Services expressed regret over the incident. "No guard or supervisor of the company will go on strike again. Inconvenience and embarrassment caused is deeply regretted. Also, the salary of all staff deployed at NMRC is disbursed by the 7th of every month," a company spokesperson said.