

Telecom Field Engineer Gets Manhandled: TAIPA Demands Strict Disciplinary Action

New Delhi, 6th April, 2020: The letter states, " Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) is the apex representative body of Telecom Infrastructure providers, registered under IP I category with DoT. Our members install and maintain telecom infrastructure such as **Telecom towers, ducts, dark fibre etc. for telecom service providers.** TAIPA members include all key players- Indus Towers Limited, ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Limited, Bharti Infratel Limited and Tower Vision Limited. Sterlite Technologies Limited, Space Telelink Limited, Applied Solar Technologies and Coslight India Limited are our associate members. Telecom services are covered under essential services and have been exempted from lock down due to Covid-19 situation as per para 4 d of NDMA guidelines. In line with these guidelines the State Government exempted the telecom services from lock down vide its order number NGO/TES/Covid -19/962/2020 dated 24/3/20 which were subsequently endorsed by DGP office, Gujarat as well.

We are aggrieved to report a most unfortunate incident wherein, our member Indus Towers Limited's field staff was badly manhandled while travelling from Amreli to Hingorala for preventive maintenance of the site. The most unfortunate part is that a senior level rank officer of Superintendent Police cadre was involved in the incident. The incident as reported by our member Indus Towers Limited is as under:

Indus Towers Limited's Field Staff Engineer (FSE) Mr. Ashish Dafda was travelling from Amreli to Hingorala site for preventive maintenance of DG set. On Amreli-Babra highway, 5 kms before site, he was stopped by police team where Mr. Nirlipt Rai, SP, Amreli district stopped him and beat him badly with sticks. Despite showing the letter and curfew pass, ID card etc., the SP was not convinced. FSE tried to convince him so many times however SP kept on beating him and threatened to lodge FIR against out FSE. FSE was later taken to Babra police station and documents were checked. He was allowed to leave after sitting for 2 hours in police station. He was again called for Police statement and is being forced to put up a false statement exonerating SP's role in the incident."

Mr.T.R.Dua, Director-General, Tower And Infrastructure Providers Association(TAIPA), said, " This is a very serious incident and such kind of incident and that too at the hands of highest- level enforcement officer can break the moral of field engineers and they may refuse to come on duty, resulting in shutting down of telecom network. At such a crisis, continuity of telecom network is utmost important, since, general public who is restrained totally from making movement, is fully dependent on telecom network for availing Work from Home, e services, e learning and several other services and applications. We request for an immediate intervention to ensure that strict disciplinary action is taken against Mr. Nirlipt Rai, SP of Amreli District, Gujarat. Also, ensuring that such incidents are not repeated in Gujarat state elsewhere.

**For Any Query, Please Contact
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