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Locked out of car, Indian Bank CMD slams door on regional head

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Manu Pubby

Tags : public sector unit, Mumbai Zonal Manager of Indian Bank, Banabihari Panda, suspend
Posted: Wed May 25 2011, 02:44 hrs

"...Our CMD could not enter the vehicle to proceed to guest house. CMD was made to wait for more than of hour (sic) at the airport and could leave in alternative taxi arranged without baggage," the detailed suspension letter, sent by V Rama Gopal, Executive Director of the bank, reads.

By failing to extend "minimum usual basic courtesies" to the CMD, the suspension letter says, Panda had "failed to discharge" his duty. The letter also accuses Panda of not handling things properly and displaying behaviour "unbecoming of official in the Top Management cadre of the Bank".

On May 21, Panda sent another letter, this one addressed to the CMD himself, recalling how the latter had asked for a two-minute silence at a meeting of general managers and zonal managers on March 23 as respect for Panda's dead wife. "When the same Chairman and Managing Director ordered for my suspension, I could fathom the gravity of the event leading to the decision."

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Despite several attempts, Bhasin could not be contacted for a reaction. The CMD's office staff declined to put him on the phone and dismissed the issue as an "internal matter" of the bank. The Chennai-based corporate communications manager of the bank also declined to comment.

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