

## Court stays eviction of AAI staff from airport land

Rosy Sequeira | TNN

**Mumbai:** The Bombay HC on Monday stayed the eviction of employees from their quarters at the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Staff Colony in Sahar, Andheri, for three weeks.

A division bench of Justice P B Majmudar and Justice Ramesh Dhanuka was hearing a petition filed by the Indian Airports' Kamgar Union on behalf of the occupants of 226 quarters on 35 acres of land near the airport. The petition said the MIAL cannot alienate assets of the AAI or change user and also, that the quarters are occupied by the serving staff of the AAI and MIAL who are required to stay near the airport and work on emergency service.

The union's advocate Gayatri Singh said the agreement on April 4, 2009, between the AAI and MIAL to develop the airport does not call for eviction of staff. "MIAL has no right to either demolish or create third party rights or change user," she said, adding that the AAI has to provide staff quarters for those working within the airport premises.

The judges observed that if need be, they will direct the AAI to make available accommodation at market rent elsewhere. MIAL counsel Rafiq Dada submitted that the BMC has given its approval for change of user and all eviction notices are not under challenge in the petition.

The judges said since the petition covers interests of retired persons, those currently employed and those who were transferred and whose kin continue to stay at the accommodation, three independent petitions should be filed.

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