



Harassment Charges Against RK Pachauri

TERI director-general says he's been a victim of hacking

Raghav.Ohri@timesgroup.com New Delhi: A 29-year-old female employee of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has lodged a police complaint against director-general Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, 75, alleging harassment.

The complainant, who works as a research analyst at the New Delhi-based energy think tank, has cited unwanted physical advances besides being the recipient of SMS and WhatsApp messages, emails and a handwritten note with dates and time that began soon after she joined TERI in September 2013.

Pachauri has denied all the allegations and said he's been a victim of hacking.

"The said email has indicated misuse of my computer resources and communication devices, without my



Rajendra Kumar Pachauri

permission or consent," he said in a response to ET's queries. "From your email, I have come to know the factum that my computer resources including my email ids, mobile phone and WhatsApp messages have been hacked and that unknown cyber criminals have

gone ahead and have unauthorisedly accessed my computer resources and communication devices and further committed various criminal activities."

He said he has filed complaints regarding the hacking with the commissioner of police, the controller of certifying authorities and the adjudicating officer under the Information Technology Act.

"The entire computer outputs on the basis of which the said complaint has been filed and on the basis of which your questions are raised are completely false, fabricated, forged and manipulated," Pachauri said in his email to ET. "Your questions have no connection with truth." He further asked that no story be published with regard to the allegations until the investigations had been completed.

Pachauri is also chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. The complainant approached Delhi Police on February 13, four days after she moved TERI over the issue.

The Lodhi Colony police station registered the complaint (DD Number 43B) at 7:30 pm on February 13. However, the police is yet to register a first information report (FIR).

The complaint has been marked to sub-inspector Brajesh Kumar. When contacted, he said, "I am busy. It sometimes takes time to get to a complaint marked to us." Station house officer Varinder Dalal said "only the concerned official to whom the complaint has been marked would know the status of the case". ET learns that on Tuesday, TERI officials called the complainant to the office to discuss the is-





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sue, but no decision was conveyed to her. A detailed questionnaire to TERI regarding its policy on sexual harassment at the workplace was unanswered. The organisation's HR head PK Aggarwal said, "In such cases, internal committees are constituted and asked to submit their report." He declined to give any further details.

Ranjana Saikia, head of TERI's internal complaints committee, declined to comment. "I cannot discuss the case at this stage please," she said.

Of the 33-page police complaint, a copy of which is with ET, 31 consist of printouts of the messages and a copy of the handwritten note. They indicate that she repeatedly asked for a halt to the alleged messages and other advances. The complainant said she conveyed that she "was not interested in any such relationship with him on countless occasions, but he refused to give up."

The complaint also refers to other instances of alleged inappropriate behaviour. "On many occasions, against my wishes and despite knowing that I am totally against any such behaviour/act, Dr Pachauri has grabbed my body by hugging me, holding my hands, forcibly kissing me and touching my body inappropriately."

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