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HMSI's Tapukara unit workers shift their protest to Jaipur

By [Sharmistha Mukherjee](#), ET Bureau | Feb 22, 2016, 04.41 AM IST

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NEW DELHI: With authorities in Haryana invoking Section 144 to curb the spread of unrest by the [Jat](#) community, more than 4,000 striking workers of [Honda](#) Motorcycle & Scooter India's (HMSI) Tapukara facility in Rajasthan have decided to shift their protest to Jaipur.

They were so far protesting at the corporate office of the two-wheeler maker in Gurgaon. Starting Tuesday, they will hold the protest in front of the labour department in Rajasthan.

Production has come to a standstill at HMSI's Tapukara unit since February 16 after an altercation between a contract worker and a shop floor supervisor turned violent. Workers blocked exit gates of the factory, demanding also the reinstatement of four employees who had earlier been sacked on disciplinary grounds.

"The workers at Tapukara wanted to form a union; an application for which was pending before the management. Four workers were sacked. Matters escalated when the supervisor slapped a contract worker asking for leave on February 16," said Ashok Yadav, president of the [HMSI](#) employees' union. The company doesn't recognise Yadav's union.

HMSI produces around 5,000 two-wheelers at the Tapukara facility a day. Calls and messages to the company for comment remained unanswered until press time on Sunday.

In the meantime, workers from various industrial units in Gurgaon-Manesar belt, including those of [Maruti Suzuki](#), Hero and [Rico](#), held a rally on February 19 to protest against the alleged use of force against the workers at HMSI's Tapukara plant.

A 13-member committee, comprising members of various trade unions, including Honda Two Wheelers Employees Union-Manesar, Indian National Trade Union Congress and Maruti Udyog Kamgar Union, has been formed to oversee the agitation.

Maruti Udyog Kamgar Union general secretary Kuldeep Janghu said: "Over 100 protesting workers at HMSI have been arrested by the police. We want them to be released. Because of the unrest around reservations in Haryana, we are moving the protest to Jaipur from February 23."

HMSI has experienced violent labour troubles in the past as well.

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