

Compensate Saradha's mediamen: AAMEF



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All [Assam](#) Media Employees Federation (AAMEF) reiterates its [demand](#) for adequate compensations to the media employees who used to work for the newspaper and news channels owned/sponsored by the Kolkata based [Saradha](#) group of companies.

Welcoming the [latest](#) initiatives taken by the Central Bureau of Investigation ([CBI](#)), following the direction of Supreme [Court](#) of India, the AAMEF expresses hope that the investigative agency will be successful in unearthing the real truth behind the multi-crore [Saradha](#) financial [scam](#) erupted in [Assam](#), Tripura, Pachim [Bangla](#), Odisha etc.

The mother [body](#) of various State based journalist and media employees organization reveals that over 1500 media employees were directly engaged with the [Saradha](#) owned/sponsored media outlets in eastern India and all of them lost their jobs suddenly after the collapse of the group in April 2013. Most of them even did not receive their due salaries for two to three months at the time of closing of their respective media outlets.

“In [Assam](#), over 300 media employees including journalists were working for [Saradha](#) owned Sakalbela, a Bengali daily and Seven Sisters’ Post, an English daily. When both the newspapers were shut down following the arrest of [Saradha](#) chief Sudipta Sen, the employees were waiting for at least two months’ cumulative salaries. They are still to get their dues with compensations,” said a statement issued by AAMEF president [Hiten](#) Mahanta.

[Saradha](#) group also initially sponsored a [Guwahati](#) based satellite news channel named [Frontier](#) TV, which stopped beaming programmes days [back](#) and lately sealed by the [CBI](#) officials for the investigative purposes. The AAMEF pointed out that most of the employees of [Frontier](#) TV were also not paid last months’ salaries.

Mahanta anticipates that the [CBI](#) probe will bring the entire issue of financial irregularities relating to the non-banking financial companies into the logical [end](#) and be successful in recovering the properties of the said group for compensating the investors. The federations also maintained that the recovered [money](#) deposited by millions of investors should be brought under the purview of income tax laws.

Finally the AAMEF emphasized on proper awareness among common people about the non-banking financial groups operating in the country and urged the journalist fraternity of [Assam](#) to report about the serious issue with utmost honesty and sincerity.

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BY NAVA THAKURIA

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