

Ban Import of Cars Not Roadworthy: PIL

by Umesh Yadav

Bangalore: Angered by the malfunctioning of a luxury car, a private company is suing the government for allowing import of vehicles not suited for Indian roads.

Embassy Property Development Limited, a Bangalore-based company, has filed a public interest petition before the Karnataka High Court after a luxury SUV it had imported suddenly locked itself up and caused a four-hour jam on MG Road.

The petition alleges the

Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Ministry, the Karnataka government, the Automotive Research Association and other government bodies are not checking the roadworthiness of imported cars.

The realty company had spent ₹71.25 lakh in 2010 and imported a BMW X5 Sports Utility Vehicle for its CMD Jitu Virwani. On April 19, the SUV reported-

ly jerked to a halt and locked itself. The driver was unable to even open the windows and doors as they were jammed. The incident occurred during peak hours, and inconvenienced hundreds of road users.

The petitioner sent legal notices to the BMW group in Germany, BMW Asia (Singapore) and BMW India, asking them to return the full amount paid for the

vehicle along with interest of 36 per cent from September 9, 2010. It has also sought ₹5 crore for putting the life of its chairman in danger.

Forbes magazine reports that BMW had recalled 1.3 lakh vehicles in 2010 and is now recalling 5.69 lakh vehicles sold between 2007 and 2012 in the US and Canada. Top BMW officials in India failed to reply to emails and to this reporter's calls seeking to know if the vehicle in question was from any batch that had been recalled. **MORE: P2**

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