

November 15, 2019

Press Release

## **BSES Teams Attacked by Power Thieves in East Delhi**

**Five miscreants arrested and remanded to Judicial Custody till November 24**

- **Miscreants attacked the officials on duty with rods and sticks**
- **Not an isolated incident – 2<sup>nd</sup> attack on BSES' teams in recent days**
- **Electricity was being stolen for illegal manufacturing activity and illegal e-rickshaw charging**
- **Discom officials on duty are at par with public servants**
  - **An attack on them is construed as an attack on a public servant**
  - **It is a non bailable offence that can invite a jail term of upto 5 years**
- **Delhi Police prevented the situation from getting worse**

New Delhi: The difficulties faced by discom officials while discharging their mandatory duties continue unabated. In the latest incident, members of BSES Yamuna Power Limited' (BYPL) teams were attacked by an area resident and his goons in East Delhi's Sabji Mandi area. The attack was so brazen that even the presence of the accompanying Delhi Police personnel did not deter the miscreants. Incidentally, this is not an isolated incident. Just days earlier, another BYPL team was attacked in the same area, which has a power-theft of around 30 percent.

The unprovoked attack on the BYPL teams took place when they were simply doing their legally mandated duty of checking the local network for infirmities and unearthing power-theft based on concrete information. Everything was going on smoothly, till they detected direct power-theft at C 382, Main Road, Subji Mandi, Maujpur. Though the area is residential, the stolen electricity was being used for illegal manufacturing and illegal e-rickshaw charging and parking.

All hell broke loose, when the teams started to record the evidence of power-theft. Not only were the officials obstructed from doing their work, the owner of the property Surender @ Pappi accompanied by a few local goons attacked the team with rods, sticks and fists, injuring two BSES officials. Amidst all this, a BYPL official managed to call 100, which further infuriated the miscreants, who intensified their attack. But for the presence of the accompanying Policemen who did their best to stop the attack, the outcome could have been much worse. They also took the injured officials to a nearby hospital.

A FIR (No 0635) has been registered against the culprit's u/s 186/353/332/34 of the IPC at the Jafraabad Police Station and the five (Surender@Pappi, Jitin, Nishu, Pradeep and Deepak) of the accused have been remanded to judicial custody till November 24, 2019.

**Condemning the incidents, BSES spokesperson said,** “Efforts of discom teams to check the irregularities are often thwarted by power thieves who function like organised gangs. Whenever discom teams reach these ‘sensitive’ areas, criminal elements ‘gherao’ them and obstruct officials in imparting their duties. Power theft has taken shape of organised crime and an even more active police support is needed to curb this menace. Despite these challenges and threats of physical violence, we are committed to reduce AT & C losses( Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses) in high loss areas”.

Under the regulations, the Discoms officials enjoy the same privileges as a public servant, while discharging their official duties. Any obstruction or an attack on a discom officials is construed as an attack on a public servant. It is a non-bailable offence that can invite jail of upto 5 years.

### **Impact of power-theft**

These high loss pockets not only cause revenue loss but also overload the distribution network – impacting the reliability of power supply in these areas. This overloading of the distribution network is an extra burden on the honest consumers – both financially and in getting reliable power supply.

### **High power theft areas**

At the time of privatisation in 2002, the AT & C losses in East and Central Delhi were around 63%. Today, after sustained efforts, they have come –down to a record low of around 8.5%. Despite several measures undertaken, power-theft is still rampant in several pockets. These include Chandni Mahal, , Turkman Gate, Daryaganj, Dallupura, Najafgargh, Jaffarpur, Mundka, Badarpur, Shaheen Bagh, Jafrabad, Sherpur, Usmanpur, Sabhapur, Ghonda, Gamri, Gokulpur, Kabir Naga, Moujpur , Chouhan Banger & Tukmeerpur, etc.

BRPL & BYPL are premier distribution companies and Joint Ventures between Reliance Infrastructure Limited and GoNCT.

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