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Press Release

‘Oil Thieves’ Disrupting Power Supply in Delhi

- **Oil stolen from more than 120 transformers in last 18 months**
- **Removal of oil from transformers, besides being safety hazard, cause outages & monetary loss**
- **BSES using surveillance and technology to contain the menace**

New Delhi: In the last 18 months, oil (amounting to around 88,000 liters) has been stolen from over 120 transformers in BSES areas. Of these, around 40 cases are since April 2020 onwards. Besides causing inconvenience to our consumers as it disrupts power supply, it also causes monetary loss to BSES.

Removing oil from the transformer has the potential of severely damaging it, besides causing power outages. Leaking oil from a transformer can also lead to a fire hazard. BSES has taken these incidents very seriously and registered FIRs in various police stations.

More recently, oil thieves were caught red-handed while trying to steal the oil from a Distribution Transformer (DT) in Subhash Mohalla in East Delhi. They were handed over to the Police and sent to Mandoli Jail. A similar case of oil theft was reported even last week from Lodhi Road.

During the last few months, oil has been stolen from DTs located in several areas of South, West, East and Central Delhi. In South and West Delhi, these pockets are located in Paschim Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Palam, Mayapuri, Janakpuri, Mundka, Tagore Garden, Dwarka, Okhla Phase Vikaspuri and Najafgargh. In East and Central Delhi, these pockets are located in Mansarovar Park, Rani Jansi Marg, GTB Enclave, Nand Nagri, Shastri Park, Jafrabad, Jagatpuri, Subhash Mohalla, Kalyanpuri and Vinod Nagar.

Meanwhile, BSES is closely working with Delhi Police officials to crackdown on this menace. It has observed that thieves are able to steal oil from live transformers, even when they are properly locked and surrounded by steel fencing.

Apart from taking assistance from Delhi Police, BSES is taking several measures to contain this menace. These include:

- Increased vigilance, especially during the night hours
- Cooperation of RWAs
- Deployment of Quick Response Teams

- Installation of IoT (Internet based sensors) on DTs in select vulnerable pockets. The moment, there is a deviation in the preset parameters, an alert goes to the control centre
- MOG (Magnet Oil Gauge) retrofitted in over old 1200 DTs. The moment oil level goes below a certain threshold, the transformer trips automatically, protecting it, as also alerting the control centre

As per BSES spokesperson, “These incidents of oil theft can cause a lot of inconvenience to the residents. We appeal to our consumers to be vigilant and if they or the colony security guards find anyone suspicious near an electricity substation/transformer, they should check the person’s ID and immediately alert BRPL on 19123 or BYPL on 1922 or call police on 100. Let us join hands to fight this menace.”

BRPL & BYPL are premier power distribution companies and Joint Ventures between Reliance Infrastructure Limited and GoNCTD._

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