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Press Release

Two Power Theft Convictions

West Delhi resident gets two-year Jail, Rs 57 lakh penalty for distributing stolen electricity

East Delhi businessman convicted of stealing over 30 KW electricity for industrial purposes

New Delhi: The Special Courts of Dwarka and Karkardooma have convicted residents of Nangloi (West Delhi) and Seelampur (East Delhi) of large scale power-theft.

In West Delhi, the Special Court of Electricity- Dwarka, has convicted one Om Prakash, for distributing stolen electricity to over 700 consumers in Bakkarwala, Nangloi. He has been sentenced to two-year's Simple Imprisonment (SI) and levied a penalty (fine+ civil liability) of Rs 57 lakh. In case, he is unable to pay the penalty, he will further undergo additional jail-term of six-months.

In the East Delhi case, the Special Court of Karkardooma, has convicted one Shiv Mangal, a resident of Seelampur, East Delhi of power-theft. He was caught stealing over 30 KW by way of direct theft for industrial purposes. BSES' inspection team was accompanied by Delhi Police. Subsequently, a power-theft bill of Rs 1.24 lakh was raised, which the accused did not pay.

Convicted for illegally distributing electricity to over 700 residents:

Om Prakash was a Single Point Distributor appointed before privatisation in Delhi. He had a sanctioned load of 300 KW to supply electricity (for domestic purposes) to the residents in the Bakkarwala area in Nangloi, West Delhi. Subsequently, he started illegally drawing over 900 KW and distributing it to over 700 residents. To camouflage the power theft, he had installed 'shunts' to tamper the meter on specific days of a month. During an inspection in 2007, the power-theft came to light. Subsequently, according to the prevailing guidelines, a bill of around Rs 35 lakh was raised, which he never paid.

Thereafter, a notice was served on the accused under section 135/138 (read with Section 150) of the Electricity Act.

The order of Mr Naveen Arora (Additional Sessions Judge), Special Court of Electricity, Dwarka says that as per the records proved by the complainant (BSES), the convict was by-passing the meter for 20 days on an average in a month and was running the meter for 10 days only. For this, he was getting a monthly bill of around Rs 1 lac , meaning that for the remaining 20 days, the convict was committing theft of electricity.

".....he caused loss of Rs 2 lac per month to the complainant (BSES). His actual liability for one year would come to Rs 48 lacs, which is a big loss to the exchequer of the company, causing burden to the overall society.....", adds the order.

“.....I am of the considered opinion that this is an economic offence wherein the society as a whole is the victim and the honest tax payers are the sufferersaccordingly, the interest of justice shall be served by directing the convict to undergo SI for a period of two years”

Penalty

“Accordingly, the convict is directed to pay fine of Rs 34, 42,224/-. In default of the fine, convict shall further undergo SI for a period of six months.....”

“.....as the convict has failed to discharge his onus that he was not using the energy for preceding 12 months, he is directed to pay Rs 22,94,816 towards his civil liability failing which the said amount shall be recoverable from the convict as if the present order is a decree of a civil court”

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