

BSES Inspection Teams, Accompanied by Delhi Police, Attacked by Power Theft Criminals in Jaffarpur (West Delhi)

One BSES engineer loses life, four seriously injured

Menace of power theft takes its first life in Delhi

- **People who indulge in power theft function like organised criminals in certain parts of the city**
- **Honest consumers and law abiding discom employees suffer the most.**

New Delhi, July 17, 2017: The difficulties faced by discom officials while discharging their official duties continue unabated. Today, it led to the tragic death of an official of BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), besides causing injuries to four others.

This morning, three BSES teams were undertaking inspections, working on a tip off to check for large-scale power-theft in Village Jhul Jhuli, a high power theft prone area in Jaffarpur, West Delhi. They were accompanied by Delhi Police officials as well.

Attack

First, the teams were viciously attacked up by a mob in Village Jul Jhuli, causing them to retreat. As they were retreating, the teams were chased by bike born goons. In the ensuing mêlée, one of the cars met with an accident and rammed into a tree, wherein five occupants were injured. One of them, a young engineer, succumbed to his injuries subsequently.

Such brazen was the attack that ONCE AGAIN presence of Delhi Police personnel accompanying the BSES teams did not deter the mob. Only a few days ago, a similar attacked took place, wherein BSES officials sustained injuries. They too were accompanied by several Policemen.

These are not isolated incidents. Efforts of discom teams to check the irregularities are often thwarted by the law-defying people 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 active police support is needed to curb this menace.

Despite intensive efforts to reduce power theft, Jaffarpur continues to have losses of around 60%. In the last five years, around 14000 cases of power theft having a connected load of around 33000 KW have been unearthed in the area.

Loss Reduction

Since inception, BSES discoms have successfully brought down AT & C losses from more than 55 % in 2002 (at the time of privatization) to the current level of around 12 % - a reduction around 45%. This has been possible on the back of deployment of several technological initiatives for improving the network operations and curbing power theft. The privatization of power distribution has led to savings of over Rs 70,000 crore (and counting) for the Delhi Government.

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