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Press Release

West Delhi Businessman and an East Delhi resident convicted of power theft

Computer Centre owner gets 1 Year Jail, Rs 4 lakh penalty

In two separate cases, Special Courts of Electricity, Dwarka and Karkardooma, have convicted owner of a mid-sized computer centre and an affluent resident of power theft. While the owner of the computer centre in Uttam Nagar in West Delhi has been awarded 1 year Jail and a penalty (Fine+ Civil Liability) of around Rs 4 lakh for stealing electricity, Dilshad Garden resident has been convicted of stealing 19 KW of electricity for domestic purposes.

Owner of a computer centre – 1 year Jail + Rs 4-lakh penalty

Convicting Mr Sat Narain, the Registered Consumer and User of a computer centre, the order of Mr Naveen Arora (Additional Sessions Judge), Special Court of Electricity, Dwarka says, *“.....except the bald denials the accused could not bring anything on record to show that theft was not being committed”*

“.....Having regard to all the facts & circumstances, I am of the opinion; the prosecution has successfully proved its case of direct theft against the accused by direct evidence which has not been rebutted by the accused. I hold accused guilty for the offence under section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003”

Sentencing

“In the 'circumstances of the case, I am of the considered opinion that this is an economic offence wherein the society as a whole is the victim and the honest payers of electricity charges are the sufferers on account of the proved conduct of the convicts. Such convicts are getting unearned benefit at the cost of others. Accordingly, the interest of justice shall be served by directing the convict to undergo Simple imprisonment for a period of one year”

Penalty

“Accordingly, the convict is directed to pay fine of Rs.2,3,916/-. In default of 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 the amount of the theft bill no.AGENR200120110042 as Rs.1,53,944/towards his civil liability.....”

Case

A BSES inspection team had unearthed power-theft of 5.7 KW at the computer centre in Vishwas Park, Uttam Nagar, Dwarka. Electricity was being stolen by bypassing the non-domestic meter. The accused did not pay the, fine, pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.

Dilshad Garden resident convicted of power theft

The Special Court of Electricity, Karkardooma, has convicted a resident of East Delhi (Mr Vijay Bali, 270-C, Block J & K, Dilshad Garden) of stealing over 19 KW of electricity for domestic purposes. Earlier, a power-theft bill of Rs 1.86 lakh had been raised against him as per the prevailing regulations. When the accused had failed to deposit the same, a criminal complaint had been filed before the Special Court take cognizance in the matter.

It is pertinent to mention that the accused had also approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi against the power-theft bill. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had directed the Trial Court to conclude the case against the accused.

After hearing all the witnesses, the Special Court convicted the accused for the offence under punishable under section 125 of the Electricity Act. The Court will determine the sentence and civil liability later.

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