

December 2, 2014

Press Release**BSES' launches a crack-down against 'impostors'****Well coordinated operation involving Residents, BSES and Delhi Police helps bust a major gang of impostors**

- **Gang leader and accomplice arrested by the Police and sent to Tihar**
- **Used to pose as BSES officials to cheat residents in posh areas**
- **Power-theft of 15 KW also detected at the gang-leaders residence in Sangam Vihar**
- **Consumers are advised to ask for the Identity Card of officials, claiming to be from BSES**
- **Consumers are advised to inform the nearest BSES office should they notice anything suspicious**

BSES discoms have further intensified their crack-down against 'impostors'. In a major break-through, a gang of 'impostors' has been busted in South Delhi. With their ingenious methods, the gang used to target unsuspecting people primarily in South Delhi. This break-through came on a back of a well-coordinated operation, involving the residents of R K Puram and Sant Nagar (Nehru Place), smart sleuthing by BSES' Vigilance Team and the Delhi Police.

The gang leader (Mr 'Rahul Sharma' alias Mr Brijesh Sharma), along with one of his main accomplices, has been arrested. While the gang leader has been remanded to Tihar Jail for 14 days, his accomplice has been remanded for 2 days. The hunt is on to catch the remaining members of the gang.

Posing as BSES 'enforcement' officials, the gang's modus operandi was simple. They used to scare unsuspecting but gullible well-off residents by telling them that their electricity meter is tampered, which tantamounts to power-theft - not only attracting a heavy penalty, but also imprisonment. Later, they used to 'settle' the case for a "sum".

Coordinated effort

Recently, BSES had received a tip-off about the gang from an alert R K Puram resident. The same gang was now trying to extort money using a similar modus operandi from a lady in Sant Nagar (Nehru Place). The alert Sant Nagar resident called BSES' Vigilance Department and was asked to play along.

BSES' Vigilance Team ran 'Rahul Sharma's' mobile number against the consumer data-base to look for a possible match. Luckily, it was a positive match. The number belonged to one Sant Ram Sharma, a resident of Sangam Vihar.

A discreet watch was kept at the Sangam Vihar residence of Sant Ram for several days and evidence (and photographs) collected, including a confirmation of Rahul Sharma's whereabouts. The evidence was given to the R K Puram Police Station, which deputed an official to accompany BSES' Vigilance team to the premise, and arrested the gang leader.

On interrogation by the Police, 'Rahul Sharma' revealed that his real name was 'Brijesh Sharma' and confessed to operating primarily in posh areas of South Delhi. He also gave details about his main accomplice Mr Rajesh, who was subsequently arrested from the Tigdi Village by the Police in a well planned operation.

Simultaneously, BSES' officials also checked electricity consumption pattern at 'Rahul Sharma' (alias Brijesh Sharma) Sangam Vihar premises and found artificially low consumption. He was stealing electricity to the tune of 15 KW by ingeniously concealing a cable in the wall. He has been booked u/s 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, at the Sangam Vihar Police Station.

Advisory

“We have been routinely urging our consumers to be wary of such unscrupulous elements. We once again appeal to our consumers not to get intimidated or induced by the threats and false assurances of the ‘impostors’ and not give them any money – whatever be the reason. All Enforcement (fines and penalties) and Commercial payments are to be made only at designated BSES offices” said a BSES official.

“Consumers are advised to ascertain and verify the identity of persons, claiming to be from BSES, who visit their premises. We request consumers to ask for their Identity Cards and look for the following to ascertain its genuineness: (i) BSES Logo (ii) BSES Hologram (iii) Date of Issue (iv) Validity (v) Photograph (vi) Signature of authorized signatory (vii) Signature of employee (viii) Employee Number / I Card Number (ix) Name / Logo / Address of the Contractor and (x) Lamination”

“If consumers have any doubt or notice anything suspicious, they should immediately alert the nearest BSES office or call for 39999707 for BRPL and 39999808 for BYPL or inform the local Police on # 100”.
