

October 3, 2018

Press Release

In a Major Breakthrough, Habitual Power Thief Arrested and Sent to Tihar

- **Accused, along with tenant, had been booked in 4 cases of power-theft**
- **BSES teams attacked in Yamuna Vihar and Najafgarh**
 - **Discom official's ear-drum was damaged in the vicious attack in Yamuna Vihar**
- **Last year, a BSES official was chased to his death by power-thieves in West Delhi**

New Delhi: Though power-theft has been largely contained in Delhi, there are pockets, where it continues to be rampant. In these pockets, it also continues to be a challenge for discom inspection teams, who are often subjected to attacks and manhandling by power thieves and miscreants. In a major breakthrough and a fillip to BSES' efforts to clampdown on power-theft, a habitual power-thief – who had a non-bailable arrest warrant (NBW) against him - has been arrested and sent to Tihar.

Habitual power-thief

A shop owner in Choori Walan, Jama Masjid, Mr Makhdoom, along with his tenant, had four different cases of power-theft registered against them. The latest case had been registered against him (FIR No 234/15) at the Chandani Mahal Police Station. Subsequently, the case was heard by the Special Court of Electricity, which directed the accused to pay 30% of the bill amount of Rs 1.3 lakh. He neither appeared for the Court hearing nor complied with the order, forcing the Court to issue a NBW.

Executing the NBW, the accused was arrested and produced before the Special Court of Electricity. After hearing the arguments and dismissing his bail application, the Court not only sent him to Tihar, but also directed the accused to pay 30% in another case of Direct Theft (DT) where the bill raised was over Rs 3 lakh.

Attack on BSES teams

Attack on BSES inspection teams by power-thieves and miscreants is a major job hazard that discom officials face. These attacks led to a brave BSES engineer losing his life in the line of duty when he was chased to his death by power-thieves in West Delhi. In two different incidents recently, BSES teams in Najafgarh (West Delhi) and Yamuna Vihar (East Delhi) were also attacked and manhandled. Both the teams had women officials.

In an incident in Village Kharkhari in Najafgarh where the losses are still above 60%, a six-member BSES team was attacked (with stones) and manhandled by a group of 10-15. They were opposing team's bid to unearth power-theft in the area.

In another incident in East Delhi's Yamuna Vihar area, a BSES inspection team which had gone to Chouhan Banger (Jaffarabad, Yamuna Vihar) – an area with over 40% loss - were brutally manhandled . The attack was so vicious that it damaged ear drum of one of the officials. Based on a FIR (No 554/18), the two attackers have been arrested under sections 186/353/323/336/34 and sent to Tihar Jail. Their bail applications have been rejected twice.

Impact of power-theft

These high loss pockets not only cause revenue loss but also overload the distribution network – impacting the reliability of power supply in these areas. This overloading of the distribution network is an extra burden on the honest consumers – both financially and in getting reliable power supply.

High power theft areas

Despite several measures undertaken, power-theft is still rampant in several pockets. These include Chandni Chowk, Daryaganj, Najafgargh, Jaffarpur, Mundka, Badarpur, Shaheen Bagh, Karawal Nagar, Seelampur, Mandawali, Chandni Mahal, Nand Nagari, Turkman Gate, Yamuna Vihar, Dallupura etc.

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