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Press Release

Yamuna Vihar 'industrialist' and Sainik Farm Resident Convicted for Power-Theft

Yamuna Vihar: 2 years-Jail, Rs 3.6 crore penalty for power-theft in a polluting unit

Sainik Farm: 1 year Rigorous Imprisonment, Rs. 5.5 lakh penalty

New Delhi: Power theft just does not pay. This was found out the hard-way by a resident of South Delhi's posh Sainik Farms and owner of a mid-sized industrial unit in two-separate cases. While the Yamuna Vihar resident was awarded a 2-years Jail and a penalty of Rs 3.67 crore (Fine Rs 2.40 crore+ Civil Liability Rs 1.47 crore), the Sainik Farm resident received a 1-year Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and a penalty of Rs 5.5 lakh (Fine Rs 2.36 lakh + Civil Liability Rs 2.24 lakh).

Yamuna Vihar industrial unit owner

Refusing to show leniency to the accused for stealing power and causing pollution, the order of Special Court of Electricity, Karkardooma says, ".....It is clear from the record that the industrial activities being carried out by the convict was of hazardous nature causing the air as well as water pollution. It is kept to be mind that in the present case, convict was found involved in running the industry in non- confirming area and for domestic use that too with the help of electricity theft to the tune of 141.138KW. Thus, there is no reason to take any lenient view".

"Accordingly, the interest of justice shall be served by directing the convict to undergo SI for a period of two years" ".....Accordingly, the convict Prem Prakash Sharma @ Kalu Pandit is directed to pay fine of Rs.2, 20, 77,159/-. In default of payment of fine, the convict shall further undergo SI for a period of six months"

The Special Court judge also came down heavily on such illegal industries operating in residential areas, it observed ".....It is reported time and again that the areas like Mandoli, Shiv Vihar, Maya Puri, Yamuna Vihar, Wazirpur etc. are the areas where such small industries are running without having any license..... However, taking action against such industries running in non confirming areas by dis-connecting the electricity without giving notice is the demand of the day as these activities need to be curbed with heavy hand"

Case

In 2009, a BSES inspection team, accompanied by Delhi Police and CISF personnel found large scale power-theft (137 KW for industrial and 4 KW for domestic) taking place at the industrial unit on Yamuna Vihar in East Delhi. According to the regulations, a power-theft bill of Rs 1.47 crore was raised and a FIR (No 233/09) files at the Bhajanpura Police Station. After completing the investigation, the Investigation Office filed a charge-sheet against the accused Prem Prakash Sharma before the Special Court to take cognizance against the accused.

Sainik Farm resident

A resident of Anupam Garden, Sanik Farms has been convicted of power-theft by the Special Court of Electricity, Saket. He was caught stealing 17.8 KW in 2005 by directly tapping into BSES' LV mains for domestic purposes. He had pleaded not guilty and had claimed trial. During the trial, the accused and his legal team gave several arguments in their defence, not one of which could stand-up to legal scrutiny.

Convicting the accused, the order of the Special Court of Electricity, Saket says, *"In view of my said discussions, I am of considered opinion that the complainant has been successful in proving the case of theft of electricity against the accused beyond reasonable doubt. Accordingly, the accused Kanwaljeet Singh Khurana is held guilty U/sec. 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003"*

"...the convict is sentenced to undergo RI for period of one year and pay a fine of Rs 3,36,639/- and in default of payment of fine, he is further directed to undergo SI for a period of six months". A Civil liability of Rs 2, 24,246 was also 'fixed'.

Talking about the menace of power theft, BSES spokesperson, "We urge our consumers to use electricity legally, and not indulge in power theft by any means. Consumers are also requested to help the discom in its crusade against power-theft, which is a punishable crime as per Electricity Act, 2003. Power theft attracts huge penalty and a jail term of up to 5 years".

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