



AWARENESS ON ELECTRICITY THEFT & UNAUTHORISED USE OF ELECTRICITY

Introduction

This is illegal!



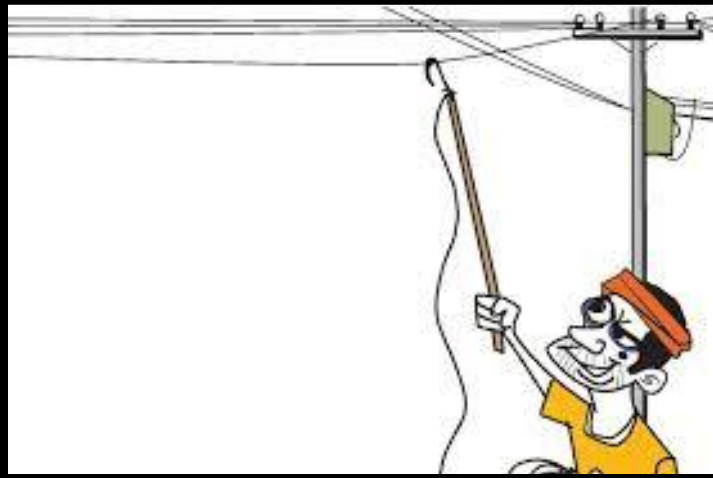
- ❖ As per IE Act, 2003 unauthorised use of electricity/power theft is a serious criminal offense in India.
- It causes financial loss to utilities and government.
- It affects honest consumers through high tariffs.

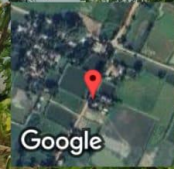


What is electricity theft?

“Power theft hurts us all”

- Illegal tapping of power lines/hooksing from nearest LT lines.
- Meter tampering or bypassing.
- Using electricity without authorization.
- Using electricity for purposes other than sanctioned load.





West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India
7vxf+XH4, Mdr 5, Meghalaya 794106, India, West
Garo Hills, Meghalaya 794106, India
Lat 25.299107° Long 89.874188°
08/10/2025 12:41 PM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera

Direct hooking from low tension line.



Meter bypassing



Correct meter connection.

Legal framework in India



❖ Governed by the Electricity Act, 2003.

- Section 126: Unauthorized use of electricity.

Acts construed as unauthorized use of electricity

- (i) Tampering of meter.
- (ii) Damages or destroys an electric meter to interfere with the proper or accurate metering of electricity.
- (iii) Uses electricity through tampered meter.
- (iv) Uses electricity for the purpose other than for which the usage of electricity is authorized.

- Section 135: Theft of electricity.

Acts construed as theft of electricity

- (i) Direct hooking/Illegally tapping from overhead lines, underground cables, or service wires, or service facilities.

Punishment under the Electricity Act, 2003.

- Heavy monetary penalties.
- Disconnection of supply.
- Repeat offenders face stricter punishments. Imprisonment up to defined terms.





De-hooking/ disconnection of illegal hooking



Seizure of electrical equipments and appliances.



Impact of Electricity Theft

“Stealing power is stealing from your neighbours”

- Poor voltage quality.
- Frequent power outages.
- Damage to electrical infrastructure.
- Transformer burnout and localized blackouts.
- Increase electricity tariffs.
- Financial loss to DISCOMs.



Safety Risks of Electricity Theft

“Stay safe, don’t tap into illegal connections”

- Risk of electrocution.
- Fire hazards.
- Damage to appliances.
- Danger to public life and property.



How to Prevent Electricity Theft

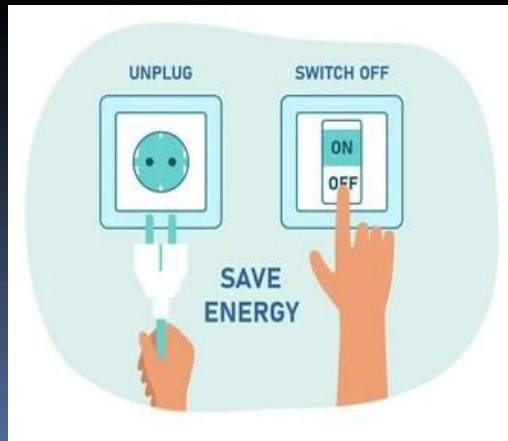
- Awareness campaigns.
- Smart metering systems.
- Regular inspection by authorities.
- Strict enforcement of laws.



Role of Citizens

“Report power theft anonymously”

- Do not engage in illegal connections/ tampering of meter etc.
- Report suspicious activities.
- Pay bills on time.
- Promote ethical & efficient electrical usage.



Ways to efficiently use electricity at home

- Turn off the lights, fans and TVs when you leave the room.
- Do not leave the fridge door open for too long.
- Unplug the gadget chargers when sufficiently charged.
- Keep the doors and windows closed when the AC is turned on.
- Turn off the gaming consoles fully rather than leaving them in “rest mode”.

Conclusion

- Electricity theft is a crime and social injustice.
- It impacts everyone in society.
- Let us work together to prevent electricity theft.





Thank You