PATNA: Whenever a severe power crisis hits the city, people protest and very few spare a thought to the fact that most of the time power deficit is created by residents only due to illegal 'katiyas' or 'tokas' on electric poles.

This was the message from the screening of a film, 'Katiyabaaz', in a local theatre on Saturday. It is an award winning documentary on Kanpur's electricity crisis and an indirect friction between an honest bureaucrat and a 'katiyabaaz' Loha Singh (an electricity thief). The film was screened by an organization, Nidan, in collaboration with Consumer Unity and Trust Society.
The film depicts Ritu Maheshwari, the first female CEO of government-run Kanpur Electricity Supply Company, who decides that the only way to get the power company out of crippling debt is to make defaulters pay their bills. Chaos follows, and even rioting, when the city is plunged into darkness for days. Throughout the film, Ritu Maheshwari and Loha Singh are pitted against each other. At the end, Maheshwari is transferred and Loha fails to pacify a dismissive drunken uncle of his work.

Incidentally, a 'katiya' or 'toka' is a commonplace sight in Patna too. Those who hook up the 'katiya' claim they are left with no choice but to do so given their poverty.

State energy secretary Pratyaya Amrit came to watch the movie with his staff. While coming out, he said the movie depicted the hardships the 'energy men' face daily. "Energy is a field where when things run smoothly, everyone is happy but if one day is spent without electricity, the blame comes on the department and the staff have to face public ire," he said. By next year, energy scenario in the state will be much improved, he said. "This is a field where no reform can come in one day, but we have to toil hard to bring substantial changes and we are doing that," he said.

The documentary is set in the industrial city of Kanpur but the story is no different in other cities, including Patna. Bihar is one of the most power starved states where per capita power consumption is lowest in the country, but it is also true that there is power theft and nexus between power staff and Loha Singhs here too.


**Hindustan**

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PATNA: The theatre hall bursts into laughter when residents, fed up with lack of power in Kanpur, curse powermen and say they are 'corrupt'.

There is also a chuckle when the lady bureaucrat, boss of the Kanpur power firm, trying to put an end to the rampant theft of power, loses out to the power that stems from the corridors of the legislature and is eventually transferred out.

That's the script of 'Katiyabaaz' (one who pillages power by putting a 'hook'), an 84-minute documentary, which 600-odd powermen walked in to watch at a theatre here on Saturday - courtesy the Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (BSPHCL).

The reel-life sentiment is carried out of the movie hall as well.

"The condition is worse in Bihar. If the IAS officers here too try to swim against the tide, they will be handled out the same treatment by their political bosses," says a power official, requesting anonymity.

"We too are thrashed by the public during raids to check power pilferage. Who do we complain to? Consumers need to realise our point of view as well," says Ratish Kumar, another officer.

Sonal Kumari, an engineer, says: "There are many Loha Singh (the protagonist who pillages power in 'Katiyabaaz') in Bihar. We need to search them out."

Emerging out of the theatre, chairman-cum-managing director, BSPHCL, Pratyaya Amrit says, "Power is a very challenging sector. Reforms cannot be expected overnight and will take time. Results of the reforms we have initiated will begin to show this time around next year." It was Amrit's idea to watch the movie with his "family" of 600-odd powermen.

He also stressed the need to make the power firm a consumer-friendly organisation and reach out as much as possible to the end consumer.

Asked about the special drive (September 12-22) to give out energy connections, he says, "we received a lot of complaints that people were made to run for 2-3 months for new energy connection. That is why we decided to launch the drive. Prospective consumers will not need to make any payment at the time of submitting their application at camps, but the applicable charges will be added to their energy bills, which will be generated subsequently. We will assess the feedback after some days and see if any more changes are required."
फिल्म में दिखी बिजली से छेड़खानी

पत्रिका पट्ट्या लेखक कृष्ण गुप्ता द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित ये लेख, जिसमें केंद्रीय निदेशक देवेंद्र महानिंद्र कृष्ण से विकल्पित अभिनव कान्हेश मुकुट के लिए दीखी बिजली ने छेड़खानी की तारीख 14 अगस्त 2014 को उर्दू भाषा में लिखा है।

लालू प्रसाद योगी राजीव सिंह बिजली से छेड़खानी की राय में हस्ताक्षरित ये लेख, जिसमें केंद्रीय निदेशक देवेंद्र महानिंद्र कृष्ण से विकल्पित अभिनव कान्हेश मुकुट के लिए दीखी बिजली ने छेड़खानी की तारीख 14 अगस्त 2014 को उर्दू भाषा में लिखा है।

http://epaper.prabhatkhabar.com/c/4106256
Patna: In a first, over 600 officials, technical experts and employees of Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Limited (BSPHCL) and its subsidiaries will watch a two-hour documentary titled “Katiyabaaz” at a local cinema hall on Saturday.

“The screening would not have been possible without encouragement from Pratyaya Amrit, CMD, BSPHCL. He himself showed interest in the screening and felt all his colleagues should watch this documentary and take a lesson,” said the main organizer, Ratanish Verma, the state coordinator of an organization, Nidan.

Verma said Amrit has promised to come with approximately 600 staff and other invitees are academic institutions, consumer groups and key stakeholders.

The documentary narrates the story of conflict between the citizens of Kanpur and its bankrupt electricity supply company, and it is narrated through the eyes of two protagonists – a woman bureaucrat and a power thief whose actions contribute heavily to the electricity utility’s losses.

The documentary was premiered at the prestigious Berlin International Film Festival and has travelled to 50 festivals across all continents. It was awarded the National Film Award and Best Indian Film. The documentary is directed by Deepti Kakkar and Fahad Mustafa and is being presented by renowned movie director, Anurag Kashyap.
After policemen, now powermen to watch movie

HT Correspondent
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PATNA: Powermen are in for a refreshing change. From the linesman to honchos in the Bihar State Power Holding Company (BSPHCL), around 600 of them will make a beeline for a city theatre on Saturday noon for rendezvous with ‘Katiyabaaz’, a free-flowing 84-minute documentary on Kanpur’s perennial power woes.

Taking a leaf out of the police brass’ initiative to show ‘Mardaani’ to cops, BSPHCL chairman-cum-managing director Pratyaya Amrit has now come up with the idea to show his officials the inspiring movie.

Directed by Deepti Kakkar, Fahad Mustafa, ‘Katiyabaaz’ paints a portrait of a dysfunctional industrial and residential landscape where outages are a daily, even hourly, occurrence and it is both engaging and enlightening. It narrates the compelling story of a feisty, foul-tongued electricity pilferer, Loha Singh, who is pitch-forked into the role of saviour to Kanpur’s ‘needy’ citizens. He helps them by illegally hooking their wires to the city’s power grids so that they can receive electricity, whatever little is available, without having to pay for it.

Katiyabaaz focuses on another spirited lone ranger—a fiercely committed IAS officer who takes over as the chief of the Kanpur Electricity Supply Corporation (KESCO). This bureaucrat, Ritu Maheshwari, sets out to fight a slew of battles against irresponsibly cynical politicians, power-filching citizens and her own corrupt and slothful subordinates who are party to the collective con.

The electricity-starved people, the more daring bureaucrats and the likes of Loha Singh are completely at the mercy of a system where, when push comes to shove, the only power that counts is the one that stems from the corridors of the legislature and the secretariat.
सीएमडी से लेकर लाइनमैन तक देखेंगे कटियाबाज

अखाड़ा स्थापना, दलना : हिटा सेंट पार्क होलिंग कंपनी विलिटेड के सीएमडी राजु उर्फ समीन्द्र के लाइनमें तक गांव को एक सड़क फिल्म देखने।

फिल्म रिजर्व निष्ठा होल्डिंग कंपनी के अधीन तथा लाइनमें तक गांव को प्रदर्शित किया गया। फिल्म की रिलीज़ के बाद ही कंपनी का लाइनमें तक का पर्यटन शुरू किया।

फिल्म की रिलीज़ के बाद ही कंपनी का लाइनमें तक का पर्यटन शुरू किया।

हिंदुस्तान

Date: 13th September 2014