

Sodium vapour lamps out, tubes in

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THE Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has taken up energy conservation seriously. To cut down on power consumption and huge electricity bills, PMC has decided to replace the sodium vapour lamps on the city roads with 15,000 tube lights which emit white light and save energy up to 35 per cent. Already, 50 tube lights have been installed on Fergusson College Road.

Assistant Municipal Commissioner (technical) Uday Biniwale said the installations were part of the administration's efforts to conserve energy. "There are one lakh street lights in the city. If we install 15,000 tubelights we can save



Tubelights at the Fergusson College Road on Wednesday evening. *Ravindra Joshi*

15 per cent in the electricity bills," he said. Incidentally, the

PMC pays Rs 13 crore annually for electricity bills. "With measures like these, we hope to reduce the bill by at least Rs 50 lakh," says Biniwale.

In the first phase, some 500 tube lights will come up on Fergusson College Road. The contract, awarded to Asian Electronics on a Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, who include the maintenance for the next five years.

While each special fitting costs Rs 5,000 as against Rs 3,000 for sodium vapour lamps, Biniwale said the benefits are long term. Moreover, the special fittings have a life of 15,000 hours as compared to 10,000-12,000 hours of the sodium vapour lamps. "The white light will improve road visibility," said Biniwale.