

Energy plan to cut monument power bill



Rashtrapati Bhavan and eight other monuments will continue to be brightly lit with the government taking up energy conservation

By Manju Menon/TNN

Mumbai: A brightly lit Rashtrapati Bhavan is a delight to watch but its Rs 1 crore annual power bill, has for long been a nagging concern. Now thanks to energy efficiency initiatives put in place, the national monument along with 8 other important government buildings, can continue to glitter without having to foot exorbitant power bills.

It is estimated that the government spends over Rs 600 crore annually on just lighting up its buildings. Adopting energy saving measures will immediately cut this by a fourth, with the overall electricity bill coming down significantly. "There is potential of saving Rs 3,000 crore in 5 years from such conservation efforts in government buildings," said Jinendra Shah, Executive Director, Asian Electronics Ltd, (AEL) an energy services company which has won energy conservation project for PMO, Transport Bhawan and the Shram Shakti Bhawan.

Basically, energy services companies like AEL and Tata Honeywell, which has won the Rashtrapati Bhavan contract, will deploy equipment like dimmers and sensors to control wastage of electricity. "Intelligent" devices and processes such as reducing the intensity of lighting without affecting the voltage are also intend to be utilised to cut down on consumption.

According to industry sources, the annual power bill of PMO runs into over Rs 60 lakh while Transport Bhawan and Shram Shakti Bhawan spend Rs 1.25 crore on electricity. AEL's contract for PMO entails energy conservation of over Rs 56 lakh while for Shram Shakti Bhawan and Transport Bhawan the contract is for Rs 230 lakh.

Although the concept of "intelligent" lighting is yet to take-off in India, several municipal bodies have started implementing conservation measures, avers Suresh. H. Shah, chairman & managing director, AEL.