

Power-Saver Changes In Corridors Of Power

By Prafulla Marpakwar/TNN

Mumbai: Chief secretary R M Premkumar now does not have to worry about switching off every light when he leaves his chamber in a hurry. There is an occupancy sensor that ensures all electrical appliances are automatically switched off the moment he leaves the room.

The public works department has installed occupancy sensors in as many as 72 cabins in the Mantralaya as a part of an ambitious action plan to save electricity. "We have installed occupancy sensors in 72 cabins in Mantralaya on an experimental basis. And the results are already visible. We are sure that, in the days to come, we will be able to save at least 20 per cent of the power consumed in Mantralaya," a senior PWD official told TOI on Tuesday.

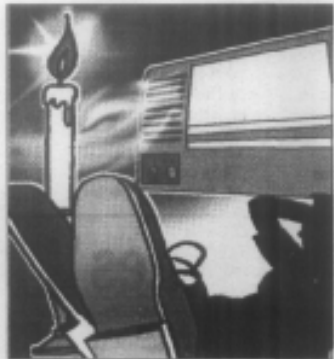
Alarmed by the acute power shortage, the PWD has embarked upon a Rs 50-lakh pilot project to save power in the corridors of power. Besides installing occupancy sensors, the PWD has replaced most of the ceiling fans of 56.5-kw load by new fans that draw only 33.9 kw, old tubelights and bulbs with new e-tubelights, water boilers with heat pumps, monoblock water pumps with submersible pumps and timers for air-conditioners. The entire Mantralaya will be a changed place in a matter of months, say officials.

The occupancy sensors ensure that all lights are switched off within three minutes of a bureaucrat leaving the chamber; they are also switched on auto-

matically within three minutes of his/her return.

Air-conditioners are switched off — for 10 to 15 minutes (this clock can be set) — automatically every 50 minutes; the timers have been installed on 150 of the 450 air-conditioning machines in the Mantralaya. "Once the entire Rs 50-lakh plan is executed, we expect to save at least 20 per cent on the total annual energy bill of Mantralaya. It is Rs 3.5 crore now," the PWD official added.

Along with Mantralaya, the PWD has drafted an identical plan for the Bombay High Court, the Council Hall, all the MLAs' hostels, GT and St George's Hospitals and the govern-



ment printing press.

For the Bombay High Court, it has been proposed that all the 40-w tubelights will be replaced by the 28-w e-tubelights; all 60-w bulbs will be replaced with 18-w CFL bulbs. Officials expect to save 53 per cent of the power consumed by tubelights and 30 per cent on bulbs. The measures have already started yielding dividends. Power worth Rs 9.47 lakh was saved at GT Hospital, Rs 7.39 lakh at St George's Hospital, Rs 33 lakh at AIR MLA Hostel, Rs 16.32 lakh at Majestic MLA Hostel and Rs 16 lakh at the government press.

DNA NAVI MUMBAI

Navi Mumbai, Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Power bill slashed

NMMC's energy efficient lights will save Rs 20 crore pa

Chittaranjan Tembhekar
Palm Beach

Palm Beach Drive, Navi Mumbai's queen's necklace is all set to glow with white light 'pearls', the sophisticated energy saving lamps.

Complying with the government code for power saving, the satellite township is toying with an idea of installing energy-saving lamps which would save more than 60 per cent power. G V Rao, executive engineer (electricity) of NMMC said the proposal has already been mooted

and being given a final shape at the administrative level.

According to Rao, energy saving companies (ESCOs) including Asian Electricals, have offered technical assistance to the project. The ESCOs are being promoted by the government in order to save power across the country. The lamps have already been installed on a stretch between Shivaji Chowk and Shabari hotel.

NMMC spends more than Rs 3 crore on electricity every year. If the scheme is implemented, Rao said, the money saved on power will be used for purchasing and installing new lamps. "This will yield a saving of over Rs 20 crore annually," he said.