

THE TIMES OF INDIA

PRICE ₹6.00 ALONG WITH MUMBAI MIRROR OR THE ECONOMIC TIMES OR MAHARASHTRA TIMES*

Raj Bhavan cuts power bill by ₹14L, sets example for housing societies

Chittaranjan Tembhekar
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: British-era buildings, with their high ceilings and massive rooms are known to consume huge quantities of power. The 150-year-old Raj Bhavan on Malabar Hill was no exception. But in an example for far humbler abodes in the city, it has adopted a series of green measures, reducing its power bill by Rs 14 lakh during the 2013-14 financial year.

The feat has won the 48-acre compound an award by the recently concluded national green energy campaign instituted by the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA).

The compound, which, besides the governor's official residence, comprises guest houses and over 200 staff quarters, saved 1.35 lakh units of power in the last fiscal over the previous one by using only energy-efficient appliances and devices, and solar-energy panels. Raj Bhavan invested over Rs 78 lakh on the green project, and is expected to recover the cost in six years.

Power experts say the pro-

POWER CONSERVATION PROJECT

BEGAN IN 2011-12

LIGHTS AND FANS

- > 200 CFL lights replaced with LED bulbs
- > 300 tube lights replaced with LED equivalents,



- conventional chokes replaced with electronic ones
- > 200 outmoded ceiling fans replaced with five-star fans

HEATERS AND COOLERS

- > All water heaters replaced with five-star or solar-powered heaters
- > All air-conditioners replaced



- with five-star models
- > Energy-efficient water cooling system installed in place of old cooling plants

LIFTS

Energy-efficient elevators have taken the place of old lifts



SOLAR POWER

- > 88 solar panels of 230-watt capacity generate 60 units of power daily



- > Power generated is stored in batteries
- > System has 10 kilowatt solar photovoltaic plates



AWARENESS DRIVE | Awareness is being created among staff members and their families on the efficient use of appliances and gadgets

RAJ BHAVAN

- > Spread over 48 acres
- > Has built up area of around 6 acres
- > Besides governor's house, has guest houses, including for President and Prime Minister, and 200 staff quarters
- > 1,100 people (272 families) live in the compound

POWER | Specific energy consumption on lighting has dropped to 23%

SAVINGS

MONEY ₹14 lakh in the 2013-14 financial year, which saw a reduction in consumption of 1.35 lakh units

In 2012-13:

- > Bill on lighting dropped from ₹27 lakh to ₹24 lakh
- > On water pumping

from ₹18 lakh to ₹12 lakh

- > On air conditioning from ₹10 lakh to ₹8 lakh

ject can be replicated by housing societies and townships to reduce power consumption.

"The project was started in 2012-13, resulting in a sav-

ing of Rs 8 lakh on Raj Bhavan's power bill. We hope to take the current financial year's saving to Rs 16 lakh," said Vasant Salunkhe, comp-

troller of the governor's households. "The measures included the use of only LED lighting, even for street lights, five-star (power-saving) ver-

sions of appliances like water heaters, ceiling fans and ACs, use of energy-efficient elevators and generation of solar power."