

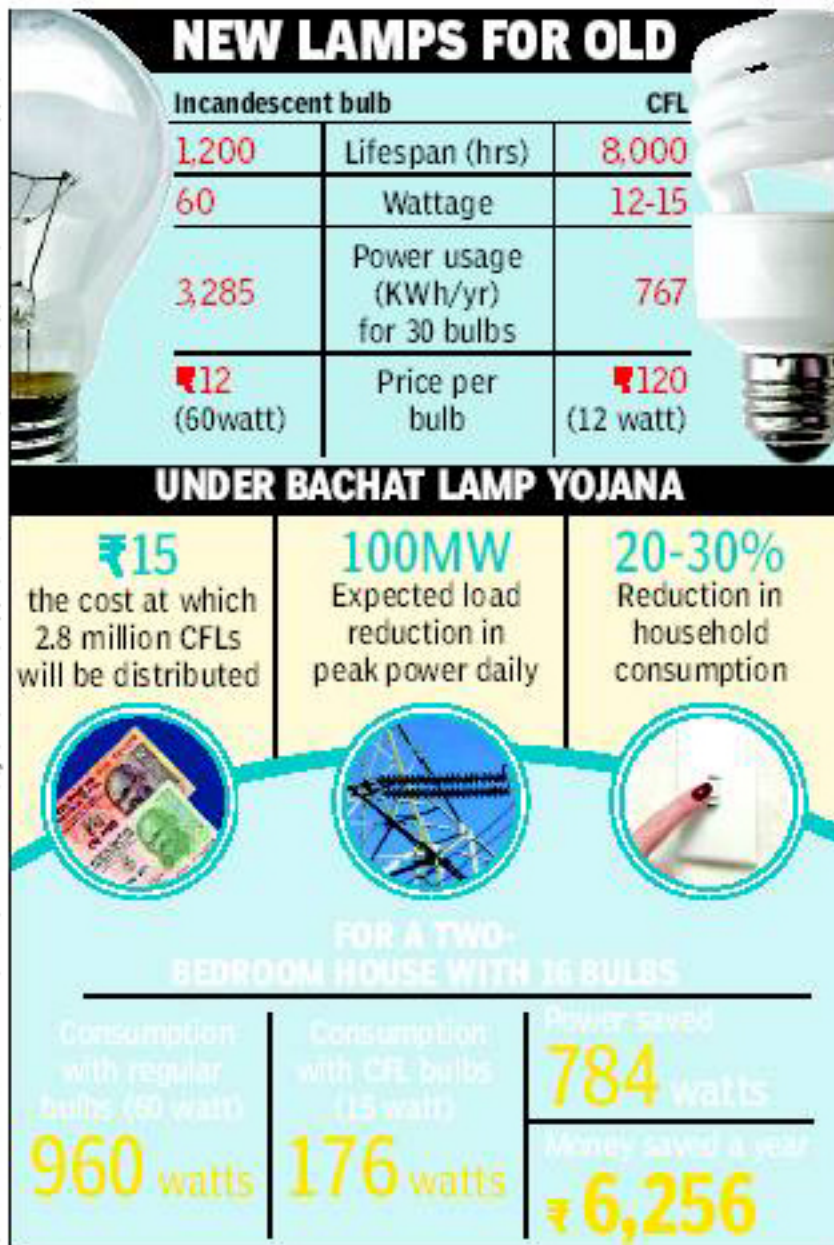
Buy four CFLs for ₹15 each

Neha Lalchandani | TNN

New Delhi: The highly expensive but energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) will be available for as less as Rs 15 in the city shortly. Power distribution companies will introduce the scheme aptly named 'Bachat Lamp Yojana' or BLY by August. Under this, consumers will be able to exchange an incandescent bulb for a CFL, subject to a maximum of four.

The flagship project of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been registered under the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol that will enable India to earn carbon credits in the international market. The money earned through the sale of carbon emission reduction certificates will be used to subsidize CFLs.

Discoms have been promoting CFLs in the capital for about a year, but have finally officially tied up with BEE. Under the project, 2.8 million CFLs will be distributed to consumers in exchange for incandescent bulbs. Officials have estimated that by the time the project has been completely implemented by 2012, peak hour load would reduce by 100 MW daily. Individual households stand to gain with a 20-30% reduction in their power consumption.



Discom NDPL implemented a pilot project of the BLY at Shalimar Bagh in September 2010, under which it gave out 10,500 CFLs. It has tied up

with C-Quest Capital that will finance the project. BSES was also distributing CFLs in southwest, east and central Delhi at highly subsidized

rates until a couple of years ago.

"The BLY focuses on the cost barrier to reduce the cost of CFLs vis-à-vis incandescent bulbs for consumers. At Rs 15 apiece, the scheme is a win-win situation for all. Consumers will have the twin benefits of lower electricity bills and help in meeting the energy efficiency targets of the state," said P S Sudhakar, chairman, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission.

While the move has been welcomed at all levels, certain Delhi government officials were sceptical about the lack of recycling facilities for CFLs in the city. While the lamps are highly energy efficient, they contain mercury that is hazardous for both humans and the environment and needs to be processed in safe conditions. The environment department tried to rope in manufacturers for a take-back policy, but got no takers for its scheme.

"Having failed to get manufacturers to respond, the environment department is also considering introducing a policy on light emitting diode lights that do not have this problem. Meanwhile, at least one evil will be tackled with and energy guzzling incandescent lamps will be replaced by CFLs," said an official.