

'Belaku' scheme at your doorstep

Bescom's exchange offer: CFLs at Rs. 15 a piece for incandescent bulbs

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Want to switch to compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) but are reluctant to pay over Rs. 100 for each piece? The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company's (Bescom) 'Belaku' scheme is the answer.

Under the scheme, the power utility, in exchange for incandescent bulbs of 100 watts, 60 watts and 40 watts, will provide four CFLs to each household at the rate of Rs. 15 per lamp. This unique scheme was launched by Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa here on Monday.

He said that if the 98 lakh homes in the State switch to CFLs, a saving of 3,000 million units a year would be possible. This would result in the State exchequer making an annual saving of Rs. 940 crore. He said by September 30, the scheme would be implemented across the State. To begin with, it would be implemented in the eight districts coming under Bescom.

Mr. Yeddyurappa said that



INITIATIVE: One of the beneficiaries (left) receiving CFL lamps from Energy Minister Shobha Karandlaje, Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa and Labour Minister B.N. Bache Gowda during the inauguration of the 'Belaku' scheme in Bangalore on Monday. - PHOTO: K. GOPINATHAN

CFL manufacturers must work with the Government to popularise their products instead of inflating the prices with an aim to make a profit.

"This scheme must become an 'andolana' (revolution). Government employees, women's groups, self-help groups, schools and colleges

must voluntarily switch to CFLs. More awareness must be created on the benefits of switching to CFLs," he said.

Minister for Energy, Food

and Civil Supplies Shobha Karandlaje said that research has shown that use of incandescent bulbs was one of the contributing factors to global warming. "LED and CFL technologies are hailed as 'green' alternatives. Several countries have banned the use of incandescent bulbs. We must also follow suit and switch to CFL," she said.

She said that the Centre's 'Bachat Lamp Yojana' also envisaged making use of CFL popular.

"However, after both the Union and State governments stressed on use of CFL, the manufacturing companies have increased the prices. This is affecting the implementation, as consumers are wary of the high price tag. To control the price raise, the CFL manufacturing companies and Government must have a dialogue," she said.

She added that Bescom employees, who will have their ID cards, would go door-to-door to sell CFLs at Rs. 15 in exchange for the incandescent bulbs.