

THROWING LIGHT ON DOMESTIC BULBS

Now that Diwali, the festival of lights is over, you need to know some facts about bulbs that give you light. The bulbs used in homes are technically called General Lighting Service Lamps (GLS). It is supposed to burn for a minimum of 960 hours. Does it?

A test conducted by CERC, Ahmedabad, has revealed that after the standard 1250 hours, the average life of 20 bulbs should not be less than 960 hours. But brands like Anchor; Bajaj, Crompton and ECE Amarjyothi failed in the life test, as they could not meet the requirement average life of minimum 960 hours.

Apart from lasting long a bulb must give good light. A test was conducted to know the initial lumen of 25 samples of each brand. For 60w, 230V, initial lumen should not be less than 646.356 of individual lamp. The initial light output of all the brands met the standard except Khaitan. Out of 25 samples teste, 24 samples failed in this category.

As a consumer, you may be worried more about the consumption of power by a bulb. For a 60w bulb, the wattage consumed should not be more than 62.9 w. In this test also Khaitan failed as 18 samples of this brand could not come up to the standards.

Test was also conducted to calculate what a consumer pays for the bulb and energy consumed put together, assuming the bulb works for 100 hours. The cost of energy was taken as Rs 4 per unit. Osram classic clear would cost the least at Rs 245.04 and Khaitan the highest at Rs 262.76.

After considering all the parameters, the 'best buy' is GE Crystal Clear in the 230V category as it scored the highest and was also not priced high. In the 250V category Prakash Lites scored 83 and is the 'best buy'.
