

Prisons Dept Shows the Way in Power, Water Management

by M S Vidyandandan

T'Puram: An energy management programme launched in the state's jails is helping the Prisons Department to save an average of Rs 3.5 lakh a month in electricity bills.

Team Technicalia, the in-house research and development wing formed this January, is also helping the 53 prisons under the department to make handsome savings through water and fuel efficiency programmes.

The R&D wing was the result of a revelation that the solar power projects failed to reduce KSEB bills in some jails, said DGP (Prisons) T P

Senkumar. "In the Poojapura Central Prison, the electricity charges only went up after installing the solar project. Later, it was found that unscientific charging of bat-

Team Technicalia was the result of a revelation that the solar power projects failed to reduce KSEB bills in some jails

teries from both solar plant and main grid led to the fault," Senkumar said.

The Jail DGP said the R&D team was an emulation of a

successful experiment he had initiated in the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation.

Team Technicalia comprises 16 officers, five each from the three jail zones and team leader K Anil Kumar, an MBA holder and special officer of Viyur High Security Prison.

Another achievement of the six-month-old team is a massive rainwater harvesting programme. A total of 2,400 rainwater harvesting pits were dug in various jails early this April which helped to tap the summer showers as well.

"Drinking water shortage is faced by several jails and

it is acute in some locations like Cheemeni. We expect a considerable increase in the water level at Cheemeni in two years," Senkumar said.

Team Technicalia has prepared a detailed technical survey on the jails titled 'Prisons Technicalia'.

The comprehensive report includes maps and statistics on the assets and requirements at each jail. Micro details like the length and height of a jail's compound wall and figures on electric and electronic equipment (including defunct) find place in the report.

Senkumar said the report would be a blueprint for further development activities.