

Durables firms see good growth

NEW DELHI: Major consumer durables firms like Samsung, LG and Bajaj Electricals are expecting robust growth of up to 30 per cent during this year compared to a slump in demand in 2011 on the back of good performance of air conditioner and refrigerator segments.

"We are looking at a growth of 25-30 in the current year," said Mahesh Krishnan, vice president (Home Appliances) Samsung India.

The company that closed 2011 with sales of over ₹20,000 crore with all round contributions from all the segments, is expecting air conditioner and refrigerator segments to grow by 8-10 per cent this year, he added.

Similarly, rival LG Electronics India is also confident of posting a good growth this year after the durables industry witnessing challenges last year due to inflation, dollar

appreciation and constant hike in input prices.

"In spite of that, LG has grown 15 in its core business of home entertainment and home appliances. We are expecting a growth of around 25 per cent in 2012 over last year," said LK Gupta, vice-president (Marketing), LG Electronics India.

Commenting on the situation, Bajaj Electricals chair and MD Shekhar Bajaj said the company saw a growth of about 14 per cent in 2011-12 as against a usual 25-30 per cent jump that it has been witnessing for the last 9-10 years.

"This fiscal, the business is expected to be better and we are hopeful of over 20 per cent growth. We are targeting a total revenue of ₹3,800 crore in FY13," Bajaj added.

The company had clocked a revenue of Rs 3,150 crore in 2011-12 compared to ₹2,765

crore in the previous fiscal. The appliances business grew 30 per cent last fiscal.

However, another home appliances major Whirlpool said the slowdown in demand that has plagued the industry in the last financial year continues and it does not expect the market to grow at a very high rate in 2012-13.

"The last 18 months have been one of the toughest periods for the industry. Against this background, we are looking for a 10-15 per cent growth in 2012-13. In the financial year ending March 2011, our turnover was about ₹3,200 crore and net profit was ₹166 crore," said Shantanu Dasgupta, vice president Whirlpool India. —PTI