



UPJVNL-INDIA REPSO COLLABORATION

Renovation And Modernisation Of Mini Hydel Plants In Uttarakhand

A number of small hydel projects installed in the country have sub-optimal generation, or are even non-functional due to technology obsolescence, poor maintenance, etc. If not attended to in time, some of these may deteriorate beyond economic rectification and repair, resulting in even further loss of generation and/or closure.

A large percentage of these projects, if renovated, modernised and upgraded, can work at optimum capacity (even more than the rated capacity) with a lesser financial input than would be required

for setting up new projects. Further, the major upgrading benefits through R&M can be achieved in one or two years, or even during the first year itself!

With a renewed interest in small hydro upgrades, the MNES has recently launched a scheme to provide financial support by way of a grant to R&M and capacity uprating of SHP stations up to 3 MW capacity @ 75% of the R&M cost or Rs 2 crore/MW, whichever is lesser.

In this regard, the Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (UPJVNL) and the India REPSO

have signed an MoU to work together to carry out a detailed study for the renovation and modernisation of four mini hydel plants in the Uttarakhand region of Uttar Pradesh. On being satisfied with the technical feasibility and economic viability of these R&M projects, the UPJVNL may seek the assistance of MNES and/or offer these projects for private sector participation.

With this MoU, the India REPSO plans to carry out R&M study of these four mini hydel plants with an aggregate installed capacity of 3500 kW.

Hydro Expedition To Nepal

Innovative efforts are under way in Nepal for the development of hydropower. Many private sector hydropower projects are being implemented by local and foreign developers. Low cost tunnelling is one of the important features of many of the small hydropower projects in operation as well as under construction. These projects have a mix of foreign and local technology as well as financing. The topographic locations of these hydro plants are identical to the Indian Himalayas.

In order to initiate an exchange of information between Nepalese and Indian hydropower

sectors, which would be mutually beneficial, India REPSO sponsored a Hydro Expedition to Nepal. The expedition team comprised representatives from the public and private sectors. The expedition, locally coordinated by Mr Balram Pradhan, included visits to hydropower sites at Tinau, Marsyangdi, Butwal, Jhimruk and Andhi Khola, meetings and discussions with



A.K. Goel of REPSO in Nepal with the Indian team during the Hydro Expedition.

private developers, government officials and hydropower-related organisations in Nepal.