

Thirty years ago Canada and India began cooperation in the energy sector. In hydro, names such as Kundah in Tamil Nadu, Idukki in Kerala and now Chamera in Himachal Pradesh are synonymous with modern Indian and Canadian technology.

We look forward to continuing that cooperation. I would hope that arrangements for the second phase of the Chamera project will be completed quickly. Certainly, I am ready to do what is necessary to see this project go forward as soon as possible.

I would also hope that in the coming weeks it will be possible to broaden our involvement in the energy sector. Canadian companies have developed excellent proposals for specific projects in the thermal sector and, following on our discussions today and last year in New Delhi, I would expect that the approval process for the Yamunanagar project in Haryana will be completed before too long. The Canadian proposal meets all the technical requirements, and it is supported by very attractive financing. Moreover, I was told explicitly, in New Delhi, that this would be a priority bilateral arrangement. Naturally I look forward to having that commitment honoured.

The involvement of the Metchem company of Montreal in the Raj Mahal coal mine project is another example of our efforts to broaden our involvement in the Indian energy scene. It is expected that the agreement for this project will be completed in the coming weeks, and that once completed it will bring badly needed power to west Bengal and Bihar.

Mr. Minister, Calgary is a city that grew with oil. Canadian technology and expertise in this sector are world known and respected. Following negotiations with both the Government of India, and the oil and natural gas corporation, we have now put in place an attractive and highly competitive two hundred million dollar line of credit. I am told that Cardwell Manufacturing of Edmonton is already negotiating to sell three oil rigs under the line of credit, and I would hope that other Alberta companies will be close behind. I also understand that arrangements are now going forward for India to participate in next month's national petroleum show.

There is ample evidence of a growing interest by Canadian companies in India. They are, of course, building on the good foundations established by companies such as Bata Shoe, Howe International, Alcan, Cominco and SNC. These companies have not been content to just sell to India -- they have invested in India and in the future of India.

The personal relations between Canada and India are wide and deep. Go to any large city in Canada, and you will find as much diversity as is found in New Delhi, although in smaller dimensions. Rajastanis and Gujaratis and Keralans and Bengalis