

The Foundation Company of Canada, with its Indian partner Continental Construction, has won two important contracts on the huge (1,500 MW) World Bank-financed Naphta Jhakri hydro project in Himachal Pradesh.

SNC Lavalin's Chamera I hydro project (540 MW) in Himachal Pradesh has been commissioned, and the company is now pursuing Chamera II and other projects in several states, in partnership with Jaiprakash Industries Ltd.

Monenco Agra and Fording Coal have formed a consortium, West Power, with the Indian groups M.M. Bhagat and SMS Investments to pursue lignite-based power projects.

Cantherm is understood to have made a proposal for the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Station (2x210 MW) in Haryana.

Other Canadian firms recently reported in India and Nepal include the *Asia Power Group* (a consortium of HQ, OHI and Power Corp), *Algonquin Power*, *Acres International*, *TransAlta*, *Westinghouse*, *Matthews International*, *Universal Water & Power Ltd*, and *Eastern Power Developers Inc.*

In total, Canadian firms, as of summer 1995, were involved in or actively pursuing state-sponsored or private power projects totalling over 10,000 MW. In addition to the almost 4,000 MW of hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh (Box 5.1), and PEPDC's Jawaharpur project, these included: *Vishnuprayag* (400 MW), *Maneri Bhali II* (304 MW) and *Pala Maneri* (416 MW), all hydro projects in Uttar Pradesh; *Teesta Hydel III* (1200 MW, Sikkim), *Barsinghsar* (240 MW, lignite-fuelled, Rajasthan), and *Kozhicode* (diesel), *Lower Periyar*, and the extension to *Kuttiyadi*, all in Kerala.

Box 5.1: Himachal Pradesh: a "hotspot" of Canadian activity

Endowed with almost a quarter of India's hydro-electric potential, this small Northern state in the Indian Himalayas has attracted much attention from Canadian power firms, many of whom attended a power sector conference with the State's Chief Minister at Simla in May 1995. The Canadian-funded and built 540 MW *Chamera I* project had recently been commissioned, and Canadian companies were at that time engaged in or pursuing almost 4,000 MW of new hydro projects in HP: *Chamera II* (300 MW), *Karcham Wangtoo* (900 MW), *Malana* (86 MW), *Allain Duhanan* (192 MW), *Koldam* (800 MW), *Nathpa Jakhri* (India's largest hydro station, at 1,500 MW) and *Larji* (126 MW).

Of HP's hydro potential of 20,000 MW, only 4,000 is currently being exploited in commissioned projects. Projects now under construction by State and Central agencies will add another 2,100 MW. A further 3,700 MW capacity in private power projects is in the advanced planning stage, and projects for 650 MW are "under investigation".

The State government favours run-of-the-river type hydro development, rather than dam storage. It is also eager to promote foreign private sector involvement in mini-hydro plants, for which HP has an estimated potential of 500 MW.