RAMPUR HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Land Acquisition | Resettlement | Community Development Practices
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THIS NOTE DOCUMENTS THE PRACTICES OF SJVN LIMITED FOR LAND ACQUISITION, RESETTLEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THE PROJECT-AFFECTED FAMILIES AND LOCAL POPULATION IN GENERAL UNDER THE RAMPUR HYDROPOWER PROJECT.
SJVN Limited (SJVNL), a mini ratna\(^1\) public sector undertaking of the Government of India (GoI), is implementing the World Bank funded 412 MW run-of-the-river hydro power project at Rampur in Himachal Pradesh, immediately downstream of and in cascade operation with the 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project (NJHP). Located in Shimla and Kullu districts, the Rampur Project involves the construction of a 15.17 km, 10.5 m of diameter, head race tunnel that delivers water to a power house with six turbine generators.

The project-affected area covered eight panchayats. SJVNL required 80 hectares of land for building project infrastructure such as offices, power house, dumping sites, and quarry and site establishments.

Of this, 50 hectares of state forest land was acquired from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and 30 hectares of private land from 167 landowners in four villages of three panchayats in Kullu and Shimla districts.

Situated in a remote, hilly area of Himachal Pradesh with limited access and development, the key challenges faced by SJVNL in this project were:

- timely land acquisition, enabling commencement of civil work on schedule; and
- sustainable resettlement, rehabilitation and community development program for project-affected families, to provide benefits in addition to mandatory compensation.

\(^1\) Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) companies are divided into three categories: (i) Maharatna; (ii) Navratna; (iii) Mini ratna - Category I; and (iv) Mini ratna - Category II. SJVNL is a Mini ratna – Category I company, which entitles the company board to do investments up to a limit of Rs. 5000 million or equal to their net worth, whichever is lower, without seeking government permission.
SJVN’s experience in its first project, at Nathpa Jakhri, led to better implementation practices in land acquisition, resettlement and community development in the Rampur Project and the experience demonstrates that benefit sharing has broad multi-layered advantages. The approach adopted by SJVN go beyond one-time compensation and short-term resettlement support and in this spirit, displaced people and local communities are both treated as legitimate partners and beneficiaries in the development process.

- SJVN adopted proactive and innovative approaches to social safeguards and community development that included a fair compensation, inclusive resettlement measures, demand driven local infrastructure improvement, opportunities for employment and skill upgrading, and support to various welfare and cultural activities. The project supports not only the affected communities in livelihood restoration but also the larger local communities in local area development.

- The innovative design and success of the community development program undertaken by SJVN, both in Nathpa-Jhakri and Rampur Projects, also contributed to the Government of Himachal Pradesh’s design of new policy provisions of Local Area Development Fund (LADF) under the State Hydropower Policy (2006), wherein it has been made mandatory for all hydropower developers (more than 5 MW capacity) in the State to earmark 1.5 percent of the project cost towards local area development during project implementation from 2008 onwards. The money has to be deposited with the Local Area Development Committee (LADC) that manages and implement the various community development activities in the project-affected villages. As a result, local infrastructure development has received a boost in the state with creation of Local Area Development Committees (LADCs) for each power project with capacity exceeding 5 MW. For example, since 2009, LADCs have implemented 85 infrastructure works (like constructing permanent paths, retaining walls, playgrounds and fencing, footbridges, drinking water pipelines, rooms for schools and community halls) in Rampur project area.

- With commencement of operations, the project will also start making annuity payments to residents of the project-affected area, during the project’s operational life, from revenue of sale of one percent of free power in accordance with the revised
guidelines for local area development adopted by State Government in 2011 under their Hydropower Policy (2006). In addition, the project will also provide 100 units of electricity per month to each project-affected family for a period of 10 years as per the Hydro Policy (2008) of GoI. This is expected to further strengthen the ownership of the project with local communities.

The key features of the approach adopted by SJVNL and their results have been:

- **A more equitable approach to land acquisition:**
  SJVNL responded to landowners’ demand for fair compensation by appointing a committee through the state government to determine market value of the land they were to acquire. New parameters such as the nature and use of land were considered, as were rates for land fixed in recent court cases and private sector transactions. As a result, the compensation rates finally paid ranged between Rs. 5.8-6.0 million (US$ 1,16,000-1,20,000) per hectare and were up to 10 times higher than those that had been initially determined in the range of Rs. 0.3-0.6 million per hectare. The compensation was declared within one year of the land acquisition notification, thereby reducing the time for acquisition by 1-1.5 years and the entire process was completed before commencement of civil works. This prevented implementation delays usually associated with large infrastructure projects due to protracted land acquisition and resettlement of displaced families.

- **Self-relocation option:**
  SJVNL demonstrated flexibility in resettlement by encouraging self-relocation for displaced families, and offering them sites of their choice and attractive resettlement assistance instead of project-sponsored resettlement. Fifteen project-affected families without a house opted for a 60 sq. m plot with a construction grant of Rs. 1,80,000 (US$ 3,600) and a temporarily leased two-room accommodation or Rs. 2000 (US$ 40) per month for 18 months. Ten displaced families, who had an alternative house, were each offered a construction grant of Rs. 0.18 million (US$ 3,600) to improve or construct additional rooms. The other four displaced families were offered Rs. 0.99 million (US$ 19,800) in cash in lieu of alternative houses. All displaced families were provided cash assistance to cover relocation expenses.

- **Support for income generation schemes:**
  SJVNL offered income enhancement opportunities to people in the project area through initiatives such as: (i) reserving small contracts below Rs. 1 million (US$ 20,000) to be implemented by them—by June 2014, 113 contracts worth Rs. 238.14 million (US$ 4.76 million) and 84 contracts worth Rs. 40.4 million (US$ 0.8 million) had been awarded to local people by SJVNL and the major project contractors respectively; (ii) employment by contractors—From the start-up of construction in 2007 until March 2014, the project has provided 0.38 million person days of work to the local population, covering approximately 16% employment created by contractors. Thus, work opportunities to the local people increased substantially. In addition, 344 local people (9% females) including 22 project-affected persons were employed by contractors on long-term contracts; and (iii) rental of light vehicles—Till June 2014, around 60 vehicles for about 3,700 vehicle months have been hired by the project, significantly helping to supplement household income.

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2 Under land acquisition act, there is mechanism to appeal to the courts for enhancement of compensation, which can generally involve time and cost. Accordingly, the people preferred to pursue with SJVNL for higher compensation.

3 SJVNL provided options for resettlement - self-relocation, or cash grant or project constructed houses.
Focused community welfare measures: SJVNL sought to spread the benefits of induced development beyond those directly affected, to also include residents of the wider project-affected area, thereby increasing the ownership and acceptance of the project among the people and community in the area. SJVNL has spent around Rs. 190 million (US$ 3.8 million) on improving basic infrastructure in the area such as approach roads, pathways, school buildings, playgrounds, street lights, water supply, sewerage, sanitation, community centres, etc.

Continuous health services: Provision of mobile health vans, referral services and periodical medical camps helped strengthen the relationship between SJVNL and local communities. By June 2014, more than 57,000 people (51% females) had benefitted from mobile health vans and 250 chronic patients referred to the main hospital for timely treatment. In addition, more than 50 health camps have benefitted over 6,200 patients (24% females) so far.

Skill upgrading measures: SJVNL’s belief that backwardness and remoteness of the area should not deter talented, ambitious local youth from progressing led it to implement a technical education program. Since the scheme was launched in 2006, SJVNL has sponsored 195 candidates including 31 (16%) females to ITIs of which 174 (89%) have completed their courses and 72 of them were employed with the contractors subsequently. Careful monitoring of the outcomes of this initiative encouraged SJVNL to also start an apprenticeship program in January 2012 for the youth in order to make them employable. So far 57 candidates including 8 (14%) females have successfully completed on-the-job training. In addition, 89 candidates including 26 (29%) females have received merit scholarships to pursue higher education.

Gender sensitivity: SJVNL has focused on women’s empowerment by introducing measures that enhance their skills and workplace exposure.

Direct communication with communities: SJVNL has focused on building a direct relationship with the local community right from start of project development stage and which continued in the project implementation. The head of the project has maintained an open door policy throughout the project encouraging people to bring their concerns directly to him. He introduced weekly visiting hour, so that any local people and project affected people can visit and discuss their concerns.
Improvement in the Living Standards

A mid-term impact evaluation on implementation of land acquisition, resettlement and community development activities was undertaken by the project through independent consultants in November 2010 that revealed:

(i) the average income of project-affected families has increased by 26% in real terms over baseline incomes and is 41% more than the average income of the control set of population;
(ii) 63% of the affected people have added additional household assets or immovable assets such as land or house from the compensation amounts received by them;
(iii) the proportion of people working in fixed earning income jobs has increased by 5% from the baseline and is 6% above that of control set of population;
(iv) the housing conditions of the affected people have substantially improved. For example, average size of the house is now 35% bigger than the baseline average size and 18% bigger than the control set population’s size of houses; and
(v) the project-affected people identified support for technical education, merit scholarships, dispensary at Bayal and mobile health van, to be good initiatives by SJVNL in assisting the affected people and local people in their efforts towards improving the access to basic amenities and health and education facilities.

and issues directly with him. Regular informal and periodic formal consultations have ensured that views of local people are heard and taken into account. All the local area development schemes are finalized in consultation with the community and in some cases, the community is directly involved in the implementation also. Direct communication with communities enabled clear dissemination of information and program delivery, reduced the chances of misinformation and helped effectively address grievances. In addition, a Public Information Center (PIC) has been operational in project area since 2005 and is a repository of all project documents such as the resettlement action plan, social impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, environment management plan, and serves as an additional place for registering complaints and suggestions.
Land Acquisition Practices

Land acquisition

The implementation agreement for the Rampur Hydropower Project (RHP) was signed between the Government of Himachal Pradesh and SJVNL in October 2004. SJVNL required 80 hectares of land for building project infrastructure such as offices, power house, dumping area, quarry and site establishments. Of this, 50 hectares of state forest land was acquired from the Government and 30 hectares of private land from 167 landowners in four villages of three panchayats in Kullu and Shimla districts. The private land acquisition was initiated in September 2005 by the state’s revenue department under the Indian Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and completed in October 2006.

Land rates and compensation: Initially compensation was based on rates arrived as per the Land Acquisition Act, based on prevailing land rates in 2005, classified by type and ranged between Rs. 0.3-0.6 million (US$ 6,000–12,000) per hectare, approximately 10 times lower than the rates in the adjoining Jagathkhana and Poshna panchayats compared to the project-affected panchayats of Bayal, Nirmand, Gadej and Dutt Nagar. In fact, the land for another hydropower project (Parbati Hydropower Project in Kullu district) was acquired at rates 8-9 times higher than what was initially offered in Rampur project, on account of use of various parameters for assessment of compensation and not past transactions only, despite the relative backwardness.

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4 Includes Bayal, Koyal, Averi/Gadej in Kullu district and Dutt Nagar in Shimla district.
5 Conversion used for 2004-12 is US$ 1=Rs. 50
of the area. Most landowners affected by Rampur Project vehemently disapproved of these low rates, being aware of other such land transactions and asked SJVNL for higher compensation.

The project is located in a hilly terrain about 130 kms from state capital of Shimla and situated on the bank of River Sutlej. Being a hilly and remote region and far away from the state capital, there were limited market registered transactions which provided limited basis for determination of realistic land values. A District Level Market Rates Fixing Committee was constituted in December 2005 with the Deputy Commissioner as Chairman and senior representatives of key government departments including the public works department (PWD), forests, agriculture, and horticulture. SJVNL and the project-affected families both chose not to be represented, thereby enabling the committee to carry out an independent and objective assessment. Land valuation was based on comparison with prevalent market land rates in the vicinity (see Box 1) computed as an average of land rates prevalent in three areas, namely Jagathkhana, Poshna and the village where land had to be acquired.

The compensation rates finally ranged between Rs. 5.8-6.0 million (US$ 1,16,000-1,20,000) per hectare and were 10 times higher than previously determined. The committee applied these enhanced rates only to land acquired for the project to speed up the land acquisition and thus avoid delays associated with land acquisition. The district administration of Kullu considered these rates reasonable and approved them in July 2006. These enhanced rates became basis for acquisition of additional private land triggered during the project implementation and made this subsequent land acquisition easier and faster. The valuation of structures was undertaken through a third party, an approved valuer of the State Government, who used the item rate method, namely the Himachal Pradesh PWD schedule of rates and the prevailing market premium on these rates.

Based on Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894\(^6\), project-affected families were asked to express their interest in the land, assets, amount, and particulars of the claim and state their objections, in the presence of a SJVNL representative. While the project-affected families had no objections to the measurement or the revised land rates, they raised other demands such as: (i) alternative land to those rendered landless, and a house to those rendered houseless; (ii) employment of one member from each family in the project as a long term rehabilitation measure.

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\(^6\) Law in force at that time

### Box 1: Parameters considered in valuation

- Recent land transactions
- Compensation paid in other hydropower power projects in the vicinity
- Revised compensation rates in land acquisition enhanced by court rulings
- Type of land (agricultural or non-agricultural)
- Average productivity per bigha
- Proximity to road and market
- Distance from village habitation
- Transportation and irrigation facilities
- Nature and type of standing crops
Outcomes

The proactive approach to land acquisition and providing a realistic compensation led to the following results:

- Land acquisition process took place in a smooth manner, without any major opposition
- Timely commencement of civil works
- Additional land acquisition during project construction for facilitation of additional civil works
- Support of the affected community

The compensation was declared in October 2006, within one year of the notification, thereby reducing the time for acquisition by 1-1.5 years and included an additional:

- 30% towards solatium\(^7\) on the market value of land, structure, fruit and non-fruit trees; and
- 12% interest for the period following the notification.

The compensation also varied according to the type of land, such as irrigated land where it was 4 times higher, and non-irrigated lands where it was 10-20 times higher.

The process of compensation was completed prior to the commencement of civil works in February 2007. Besides facilitating compensation, the project enabled the resettlement of 15 displaced households consisting of about 70 people. Additional lands for civil works required during project implementation were also acquired at these rates. In addition to compensation, the land losers becoming landless\(^8\) were also provided with additional support of rehabilitation grants (Box 2) and 51 vulnerable families including 11 women headed families were given financial assistance for their speedy rehabilitation in the post land acquisition period.

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\(^7\) Terminology used in land acquisition act which means additional compensation paid for compulsory acquisition of land by solacing the affected person.

\(^8\) In Himachal Pradesh, landless is defined as the one who is left with less than 5 bighas of land (i.e. less than 1 acre)
Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project-affected People

**Approach:** The Rampur Project identified 29 families to be displaced and requiring relocation. This included 19 families that were left without houses and 10 families that had an alternative house. SJVNL’s approach to resettlement and rehabilitation aimed at:

- suitable relocation of displaced families;
- relocation choice for displaced families, based on the NJHP experience; and,
- rehabilitation grants for those rendered landless and houseless.

**Rehabilitation grants:** SJVNL recognized that in a rural economy, agricultural land is a key economic asset whose loss must be compensated. It therefore also provided rehabilitation grants to families rendered landless after acquisition and counselled them on productive investment (see Box 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Land Acquisition</th>
<th>After Land Acquisition</th>
<th>Amount (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 0.4</td>
<td>0 or 0.004</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 0.4</td>
<td>0 or 0.004</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>&gt; 0.004 and &lt; 0.4</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Those left with less than 5 bighas (1 acre) after land was acquired for the project.*
0.7850 hectares of land on a ‘willing seller-willing buyer’ basis at the same enhanced rates fixed by the committee for land acquisition, benefitting willing sellers. The Rampur Project developed the plots before handing them over to the buyers for construction.

Construction grant: SJVNL released the construction grants in instalments, by assessing construction progress through a project committee, so that displaced families actually rebuilt their houses, and did not squander the assistance amount. Besides, SJVNL prepared a transit plan, providing temporary accommodation to houseless families for the period between vacating their old houses and moving to new ones, with the options of temporarily leased two-room accommodation or Rs. 2000 (US$ 40) per month for 18 months. Ten displaced families who had an alternative house were each offered a construction grant of Rs. 0.18 million (US$ 3,600) to improve or construct additional rooms. The other 4 displaced families choose to build houses individually on their own as they could not find suitable site of their choice. Hence they were offered cash in lieu of alternative houses. Each of these families were paid Rs. 0.99 million (US$ 19,800), the amount equivalent to the average amount spent by the project for other 15 displaced families towards purchase of a plot, land development, creation of infrastructure and transitional support.

Box 3: Self-relocation options

- Provide an independent house with plot area of 60 sq. m.
- Provide construction cost of house @ Rs. 3,000 per sq. m. i.e. Rs. 1,80,000 (US$ 3,600)
- A family that does not opt for a house/plot but constructs its house at its own cost with a plinth area of 60 sq. m or more to be paid construction cost at Rs. 3,500 per sq.m.

An independent study\(^\text{10}\) found that project-affected families utilized the compensation money and rehabilitation grant to purchase land, orchards in the vicinity, and vehicles or make improvements in their houses.

Flexibility in choice for relocation: SJVNL demonstrated flexibility, using its resettlement and rehabilitation scheme to give project-affected families the choice of relocation, rather than push them into a pre-identified resettlement.

Consultative process: 15 out of 19 project-affected families without a house opted for a 60 sq. m plot with a construction grant (see Box 3). SJVNL purchased

\(^\text{10}\) Mid-term Impact Evaluation of Resettlement Action Plan and Community Development Plan Implementation in Rampur Hydropower Project, November 2010, SMEC India Limited.
“...The earlier house had four rooms and a toilet, permanent but smaller. After land acquisition, SJVNL gave us a plot for our resettlement. Actually, the plot is only 100 meters away from our earlier home. We continue to get fodder for our cattle from the nearby forest... so no change. ...... This is the new house that we have constructed. It has four rooms but as you can see they are bigger than earlier... with a toilet. Water supply is available for 24 hours. SJVNL has provided street lighting and recently set up a sewage treatment plant for the colony... definitely an improvement on what we had earlier. You would notice we are now constructing the first floor... more members in the household means need for more space!

– Biju Ram S/o Matu Ram, Project displaced family (houseless and landless), Averi village

Reimbursement for moving or relocation costs: SJVNL provided about Rs. 5,000 (US$ 100) to households to cover their moving costs from their original dwelling units to temporary accommodation and then to their new houses.

Other facilities: The resettlement colonies at Bayal and Averi villages were provided with piped water, internal paths, approach roads, street lighting and a sewage treatment plant with 25,000 litres capacity to serve 100-125 persons. An independent study\(^\text{11}\) revealed that in comparison with the pre-project scenario:

\begin{itemize}
\item 16\% additional households had permanent house structures;
\item house sizes increased by more than 200 sq. m with extra rooms; and
\item additional rooms were rented out at Rs. 1,500 (US$ 30) per room per month to migrant construction workers, who are in need of housing and the income earned supplemented the overall household income.
\end{itemize}

\(^{11}\) Mid-term Impact Evaluation of Resettlement Action Plan and Community Development Plan Implementation in Rampur Hydropower Project, November 2010, SMEC India Limited
Income Enhancement Measures During Project Implementation

**Support for income generation.** SJVNL’s compensation and resettlement grants shielded project-affected families against adverse resettlement impacts and the long construction phase, and the RHP offered income enhancement opportunities to those in the project area such as: (i) petty contracts, (ii) employment by contractors, and (iii) rental of light vehicles.

*Petty contracts:* SJVNL awarded petty contracts (below Rs. 1.0 million or US$ 20,000) such as housekeeping, gardening and masonry for infrastructure on a preferential basis to local people and registered contractors under three categories:

- project-affected families;
- residents of project-affected areas; and
- local persons.

*Income enhancement opportunities offered by RHP*:

- petty contracts (below Rs. 1.0 million or US$ 20,000)
- contractors engaging local persons
- hiring of light vehicles for the project

By employing local persons, the contractors substantially increased local work opportunities. Petty contracts were tendered and awarded to registered agencies submitting the lowest bid. The duration of such contracts was approximately one year and, depending on the nature of work, these were re-tendered annually. Petty contractors confirmed
receiving timely payment and gaining exposure for work outside the area. By June 2014, 113 petty contracts worth Rs. 238.14 million (US$ 4.76 million) had been awarded to local people, of which Rs. 179.30 million (US$ 3.59 million) worth works (75%) have been completed. Besides, the major project contractors have awarded 84 petty contracts worth Rs. 40.4 million (US$ 0.8 million).

Employment of local persons by contractors:
SJVNL engaged local persons on annual contracts through various contractors, thereby increasing local employment for clerks, supervisors and data entry operators on pay scales ranging between Rs. 3,000 and 8,000 (US$ 60-160) per month. In addition, 344 local people including 22 project-affected persons were employed by contractors on long-term contracts. With this experience and income, these entrants have been able to pursue higher studies and other professional interests. Although a state-of-the-art hydropower project like the Rampur one has only limited manpower needs, SJVNL has stipulated that “one member of each project affected family rendered landless will be provided employment by the project authority in the category of skilled/semi-skilled/unskilled workmen subject to fulfilling the requisite criteria/qualification and as and when any fresh recruitment is done in these categories.” Accordingly, one recent vacancy for the post of pharmacist was filled by a female candidate from a project-affected family.

SJVNL has also mandated that all contractors and their sub-vendors provide work opportunities to local persons, mainly semi-skilled and unskilled, at the supervisor and workman level, thus augmenting both gainful employment and household income. From the start-up of construction in 2007 until March 2014, the project has provided 0.38 million person days of work to the local population, covering approximately 16% employment created by contractors.

Rental of light vehicles: SJVNL also initiated a scheme whereby vehicles (mainly jeeps) were to be hired by the project on rent, which became a major source of supplementary income for local people. SJVNL

I work with the finance department of RHP and live in Kasholi village of Badi panchayat i.e. within the project-affected area, but not directly affected. When RHP introduced this scheme of hiring of vehicles for families residing in the project affected area, I considered it as a good opportunity to earn more money. I purchased a Mahindra Bolero vehicle on loan and rented it out to RHP in my wife’s name in 2011. I get Rs. 18,000 (US$ 360) as a fixed rate and with fuel and other expenses it is about Rs. 27,000 (US$ 540) per month. Part of the earnings goes towards loan repayment and driver’s salary. Money earned has been good and enabled me to afford more. My son is enrolled in GNIIT – computer course from an accredited institute. Also, once the loan amount is cleared, I get the vehicle for free. If I sell it, I will get at least Rs. 1,50,000 (US$ 3000).

– Mangat Ram, Vehicle owner
initially advertised this scheme for project-affected families only, but later opened it up for other residents of the project-affected area. The local population appreciates the scheme, for most of whom farming is the main occupation and this additional avenue for earning income through vehicle rental is otherwise not available as an option. They took a loan and purchased vehicle to give it to the project on monthly rental. The vehicle owners now expect to recover their investment cost and repay the loan for purchasing the vehicle. Approximately 60 vehicles have been hired by the project. In the post-construction phase, the project would require fewer vehicles and thus some vehicles would be deployed elsewhere or sold profitably. Till June 2014, approximately, 3,700 vehicle months were hired by the project, significantly helping to supplement household income.

Direct communication. From the early stages of project preparation, the staff of the resettlement and rehabilitation department of the Rampur project established direct channels of communication with the local community.

In early meetings with the villagers, the project staff explained to them in detail the possible social and environmental impacts of the proposed project and discussed possible mitigation measures. They provided information on, and translated and explained the provisions and guidelines of various schemes governing land acquisition and rehabilitation; the development of community infrastructure works; compensation for potential damage due to blasting on houses or crops; measures to deal with dust pollution etc. They also explained the system for resolving grievances of affected communities, individuals and their representative groups.

The direct interaction continued through the implementation phase. Villagers made use of the Open Door policy followed by project officials and raised their concerns and issues directly with the them.

A Public Information Center (PIC) has been operational in Bayal village since 2005 to function as a one-stop resource center for the local villagers for information on resettlement and rehabilitation, community development, employment opportunities, and grievance redressal. This PIC is also a repository of all project related documents and allows the villagers to easily access reports such as the resettlement action plan, social impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, and environment management plan, etc. The PIC is manned by a local officer conversant with local issues to those who visit the PIC.
Community Development Measures

The objective of the SJVNL’s community development program is the sustainable development and socio-economic improvement of project-affected communities in the surrounding villages by:

- providing or enhancing basic infrastructure;
- operating mobile health vans;
- providing scholarships for the wards of affected local people;
- sponsoring youth to Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)\(^\text{12}\) to acquire technical skills; and
- providing support services to agriculture and horticulture.

The innovative design of the program contributed to the State Government coming out with a policy in 2008 for the State wherein it was made mandatory for hydropower developers to earmark 1.5 percent of the project cost towards local area development and the money has to be deposited with the Local Area Development Committee (LADC) that manages and implements projects.

The original allocation for infrastructure development in case of Rampur project was Rs. 125 million (US$ 2.5 million) under the sustainable community development program, however following the notification of the

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\(^{12}\) Local training schools providing vocational instruction in a range of technical trades
State’s new policy in 2008, the allocation has been raised to Rs. 307.5 million (US$ 6.15 million). Since 2009, the LADC has sanctioned, executed and monitored infrastructure improvement schemes under this allocation in the affected villages, including:

**Infrastructure works:** Rs. 190 million (US$ 3.8 million) have been spent by the project on improving infrastructure, including on two major works, namely a new bus station (Rs.114 million or US$ 2.28 million) and a senior secondary school (Rs. 20 million or US$ 0.4 million) at Rampur. In addition, SJVNL has also installed energized tube wells and hand pumps for improving drinking water supply. Based on ranking parameters (see Box 4), the funds are earmarked for each affected village to support the provision of small infrastructure. The project proponent then has to improve basic infrastructure such as approach roads, pathways, school buildings, playgrounds, street lights, water supply, sewerage, sanitation, community centres and cremation grounds. As infrastructure work below the threshold of one million rupees (US$ 20,000) is

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4: Ranking parameter and weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land acquired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of river stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of underground works</td>
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<td>(like tunnel etc.)</td>
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“...there was a Primary Health Center at Koyal village… but we still travelled to Khaneri or Rampur. The bus fare apart, half a day would be required in terms of time, causing discomfort to the patient. Now with the health vans coming and holding camps and check-up of patients, we get treatment and free medicines …at our doorstep!

– Pooja of Bakhan village, Kharga Panchayat (project-affected area)

allocable for local petty contracts, those interested could submit their bids.

**Mobile health vans and medical camps:** Prior to the project, the nearest medical facility for local communities was at Khaneri or Rampur, approximately 8-10 km away. Inadequate transportation rendered access difficult. Medical camps and mobile health vans became operational in January 2005, comprising a team of doctors, nurses and attendants that visits villages thrice weekly for one hour per village, also providing treatment and referral services to villages in the neighbourhood.

**Mobile health vans and medical camps help diagnose patients, provide medicines free of cost, medical guidance and referrals:** This has increased awareness about basic hygiene and balanced diet in the surrounding villages. By June 2014, more than 57,000 people had benefitted and 250 chronic patients referred to the main hospital for timely treatment.
…the Rampur project has supported the schools in the area in many ways. We have used the grant scheme for purchasing science, chemistry instruments, books for the library, furniture, tables, chairs, basketball, volleyball… sports goods…and yes, we developed a basketball court. We also get grants from the state government… it comes through…sometimes takes longer. The project gave scholarships to encourage good students… there was an essay, quiz and declamation competition too….Recently in February; the project organized a dental, blood grouping camp …in our school… very useful. Actually otherwise it is very difficult for the school to organize such a camp. The panchayat is involved as well in the functioning….the school management committee includes a panchayat representative, parents of wards and they monitor the grant utilization, the assessment committee is working well

– Headmaster, Senior Secondary School, Dutt Nagar

SJVNL took the initiative further and organized health camps on themes such as sports, geriatric health, dental and vision check-up, iodine deficiency, blood sugar, haemoglobin, thyroid and lipid profile. Since 2007, more than 50 health camps have benefitted over 6,200 patients, and SJVNL has kept records of places visited, together with patients checked, referrals, and injections administered. In 2013, as part of its corporate social responsibility, SJVNL has outsourced mobile health van operations for the NJHP and RHP to HelpAge India, a specialized not-for-profit society which runs mobile Medicare units across the country.

**Scheme for infrastructure support to schools in project-affected areas:** A key component of SJVNL’s strategy for social uplift is improvement and provision of infrastructure and aid to 49 schools - at primary, middle and senior secondary levels - in the project-affected area. Each school was eligible for three grants:

- either Rs. 5,000 (US$ 100) or Rs. 10,000 (US$ 200) for students to carry out plantation work in the school’s vicinity;
- varying, according to the school’s level, between Rs. 75,000 (US$ 1,500) and Rs. 2,00,000 (US$ 4,000) for student infrastructure, namely desks, chairs, library books, laboratory equipment, education aids such as blackboards and whiteboards, slide projector, computers and peripherals, sports equipment, musical instruments and additional classrooms, released after checking infrastructure provided by the government in order to avoid duplication; and
- 50% of the second grant for those schools who have successfully utilised the first grant.

Additionally, school fee concession between 27-35% for all classes from nursery till class XII is provided to children of project-affected families at Delhi Public School in Jhakri on the same lines as the children of SJVNL employees.

**SJVNL has developed comprehensive criteria and procedures for the scheme:** Schools must indicate their requirements, including the number of students enrolled before applying. A school management
ensures compliance with stipulated terms. The head of RHP, if satisfied with the assessment, approves the proposed grants.

SJVNL’s contribution has been widely acknowledged, as schools in the project-affected area used the project grants to supplement state government funds for critical infrastructure. Further, amounts between Rs. 1000-4000 (US$ 20-80) were awarded to the best students in classes V, VIII, X and XII, thereby ensuring that deserving students in the project-affected area continued studying and did not drop out due to economic reasons.

Support for technical education and apprenticeship for youth: As the project-affected area was underdeveloped, its youth had limited access to technical education and professional exposure for employability. The cost of the education and the preference to find suitable educational institution locally (and not go away from home) and seek work locally was also a deterrent. For the development of families in the project-affected area, SJVNL designed a scheme for class 10th pass youth to enter ITIs and become self-reliant in trades such as electrician, machinist, motor mechanic and welder. Female candidates were specially sponsored for computer operator, programming assistant, cutting and sewing courses by:

committee consisting of representatives of the project, district administration, education department and the headmaster, monitors the functioning of the scheme, using parameters such as utilization of the first grant, requirements against estimates, progress of work, and procurement of material from the second and third grants. It finalizes the instalments to be released and
A merit scholarship scheme enabled students to pursue higher education, minimized dropouts and created a pool of candidates capable of contributing to the project: These scholarships were given to vocational trainees at ITIs, diploma aspirants in engineering, pharmacy and computer skills and degree students in engineering and medicine. So far, 89 candidates including 26 (29%) females have received scholarships.

Support services for horticulture, agriculture and veterinary skills: SJVNL organized training in agriculture, horticulture and veterinary skills to provide local persons with technical knowhow for improving the quality of fruits and crops, and the breed and health of cattle. About 450 people including 170 (38%) women received support through these camps. Through community meetings, farmers were exhorted to attend eight camps supported by agriculture and horticulture experts from the Himachal Pradesh University. Participants, including women, were provided farm implements such as pruning scissors and sickles, fertilizers, animal feed and high-yielding varieties of seeds. Consequently, local communities adopted better farm practices, tools and implements.

Support to cultural property, fairs and festivals: SJVNL also helped preserve community cultural property with funds and technical support to fence temple structures, install tiles, construct additional rooms, and develop community welfare centres. Its participation in fairs and festivals such as Kharga Mela, Mandwa, Thirshu Mela, Anni Mela and Boddhi Diwali Fair has created a sense of continued support for the community.

Awareness camps: SJVNL’s community outreach has included awareness camps on HIV/AIDS and the Right to Information (RTI) Act for migrants and others labourers with construction contractors. About 150 people including about 45 (30%) females participated in the RTI awareness workshops. In addition, SJVNL also held two RTI camps for the general population in the project area.

- providing training for one year in different trades at ITIs in the state;
- reimbursement of tuition and examination fees; and
- monthly stipend of Rs. 700 (US$ 14).

Candidates with required marks from project-affected families had to apply to SJVNL through the panchayat. Since the scheme was launched in 2006, SJVNL has sponsored 195 candidates including 31 (16%) females. Of these, 174 (89%) including 25 females have successfully completed their courses and the rest are expected to do so shortly. Of those who completed their courses, 72 (41%) were gainfully employed with contractors.

SJVNL also initiated a three-month skill upgrading program, through the Construction Industry Development Council, with a monthly stipend of Rs. 1,500 (US$ 30) across all its projects to enhance skills in the electrical and accountancy trades for unemployed youth to become gainfully employed or set up their own enterprises.

A merit scholarship scheme enabled students to pursue higher education, minimized dropouts and created a pool of candidates capable of contributing to the project: These scholarships were given to vocational trainees at ITIs, diploma aspirants in engineering, pharmacy and computer skills and degree students in engineering and medicine. So far, 89 candidates including 26 (29%) females have received scholarships.
Infrastructure under the Sustainable Community Development Program. At the beginning of the project implementation, SJVNL developed a Sustainable Community Development Program. Under this program, local infrastructure facilities such as playgrounds, permanent paths and foot-bridges specified by the village communities, fencing and repair of small irrigation channels, regarded as village lifelines, were created. The entity for which infrastructure is created has the responsibility for maintenance, while the panchayat monitors property renovation through ward members in duly constituted committees. The local communities consider the quality of infrastructure works executed by the RHP superior to that of the state government departments.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR): The experiences gained over the last decade in the Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project and the RHP helped SJVNL formulate a Corporate Social Responsibility – Community Development (CSR-CD) policy, involving specialized agencies. It includes education, infrastructure and community development, provision of medical services, women’s empowerment and creation of awareness among project-affected families. SJVNL’s CSR budget is 0.5-2% of the net profit after tax and is apportioned across all SJVNL projects, with bi-annual monitoring and external evaluation every five years.

Under the CSR-CD policy, many activities have been undertaken in the RHP area such as construction of a rain shelter and post office at Bayal, study tours, installation of benches, water coolers, toilets, fencing around temple structures, playgrounds, installation of dust bins, sponsorship of technical education, provision of meritorious scholarships, apprenticeships, camps on agriculture, horticulture and skill awareness.

Apprentice Training. In 2012, SJVNL introduced a new CSR initiative, namely an apprenticeship (on-the-job) scheme. Under this scheme, technically qualified youth in the project-affected area were given an opportunity to work for one year with RHP with a monthly stipend between Rs. 5,000-8,000 (US$ 90 to 160). 57 candidates, including 8 (14%) females have successfully completed the training. The candidates have been trained as electricians, fitters, mechanics, refrigeration mechanics, motor mechanics, turners, welders, computer operators, etc. Male apprentices at construction sites have gained experience and confidence and women have become empowered, some working as computer operators, using the experience gained, or saving to study further.

“I am from Chambu village, Bahwa panchayat... we are a small family with parents and a younger sister. My family supported me in going out for training….did my training from ITI, Bilaspur 2010-11...learnt Microsoft Excel, DOS, C++. I have joined RHP as computer operator apprentice this January. I get Rs. 6000 (US$ 120) per month. My previous job outside the area was on a shift basis, required 12-14 hours on an average and most of the work was data entry in MS-Excel. Work here is better and with more variety and I will use my earnings to study more.”

– Bindubala, Apprentice, RHP, Batch 2012-13
Gender Focus

SJVNl has demonstrated a strong willingness to empower women in the project-affected area. It has provided women with education, training, employment, health care and support at the domestic level as follows:

(i) Training and employment related support

Sponsorship for technical education and apprenticeship: SJVNl has sponsored 31 females (16%) in computer operating and programming assistant, sewing and cutting trades, resulting in jobs for fourteen females. About 30% of 89 persons who received scholarships were females. Similarly, 14% of 57 who received apprentice training were females and 9% of 344 local persons employed by the contractors were females. In addition, the project has also organized skill upgrading training programs exclusively for women in 2014 – This includes a 3 month computer training, 3 month cutting and tailoring and 2 month beautician program which have benefitted more than 50 women.

Employment with RHP: Two out of four professional staff (50%) working on community development and resettlement and rehabilitation aspects are females and the head of the PIC is also a female. In addition, the project hired a female pharmacist at Bayal dispensary under the resettlement and rehabilitation scheme.

(ii) Health care related support

Treatment by mobile health van (MHV) and the Bayal dispensary: Many female patients in the project-affected areas have availed of treatment from both these facilities. The coverage of female patients by mobile health vans (51%) has been significantly higher than those who received treatment at the dispensary (22%). About one-fourth of 6,200 who availed of the services of medical camps were females.
“I reside in Nirmand… from a project-affected family. I have a diploma in pharmacy. Earlier I was working in a government hospital for 1-1/2 years, later ran a drug store. I joined SJVNL under the project employment provision for skilled project-affected families. Here I support Out Patient Department (OPD) activities, Mobile Health Van (MHV) services, maintain a stock register, dressings for minor ailments, etc. It’s a pleasure to serve my own people…they are happy also to receive quality treatment and medicines in their village with MHV. The job with RHP, Bayal dispensary has given me economic security as my husband has a job that is temporary. He is teacher in a school at Kumarsein. In the drug store earlier, I was getting about Rs. 15,000 (US$ 300) per month but now I earn Rs. 26,000 (US$ 520) per month. And as a staff member, the project has given me accommodation in the Jhakri staff colony. My child is studying in DPS school. Things are definitely better now.”

– Devkumari, Member of landless PAF working as pharmacist, Bayal dispensary

SJVNL Silver Jubilee women and child care scheme: In order to provide health care to women below poverty level and their children during the ante-natal and post-natal period, the project has provided financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 (US$ 100) to 25 women at both pre- and post-delivery stages. It also enabled consultation at project cost in a primary health center or other suitable place in coordination with the project medical staff or government hospital. In addition, a kit valued at Rs. 1000 (US$ 20), consisting of nutritional food, soaps and other items related to hygiene, was provided besides counseling and guidance.

(iii) Household related support

Piped water supply and water tankers: In order to improve water supply and avoid drinking water shortage, SJVNL deployed water tankers to villages in the project-affected area. Subsequently, along with the irrigation and public health departments, it provided piped drinking water through energized tube Wells and also installed hand pumps. Piped water supply is reported to be a major boon for women as it has significantly reduced their burden of fetching water from distant sources.
Provision of toilet kits: To support the total sanitation campaign, the project distributed toilet kits to 2,200 households in the project-affected area, who reported using them.

Provision of pressure cookers: To promote forest conservation, SJVNL provided each project-affected family (139 families) with a five-liter pressure cooker to reduce the use of fuel wood from nearby forests. The response from the communities was very positive.

Camps for agriculture, horticulture and skill awareness: Farm work is done mainly by women who have attended SJVNL camps for improving skills, farm practices and technologies.

The key gender related information from the above described activities is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Gender disaggregated information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Number of affected landowners</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(6.58)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vulnerable families assisted</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>11**</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(21.57)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sponsorships for technical education</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(15.89)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Merit scholarships provided</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(29.21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of people given apprentice training</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(14.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Number of people employed by contractors</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(9.01)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Number of people who availed of mobile health van services</td>
<td>23,431</td>
<td>24,636</td>
<td>48,067*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(51.25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Number of people who attended medical camps</td>
<td>4,722</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>6,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(24.33)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Number people who attended veterinary and horticulture camps</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(37.98)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage share of females.
*excludes 8937 children;**Families headed by women.
Additional Welfare Measures to Address Community Concerns

SJVNL also addressed other concerns that were raised by the community, namely:

Provision of construction grant to 10 project-affected families at Bayal village: These families had lost their structures but, since they had a second dwelling unit in the affected panchayat area, they could not be certified as houseless. Recognizing this as a loss that project-affected families could ill-afford, SJVNL adopted a humanitarian approach by providing all project-affected families with a construction grant of Rs.1,80,000 (US$ 3,600) to upgrade their houses.

Mitigation of impact on structures due to blasting: Although SJVNL applied the latest available technology of underground blasting to minimize harmful effects on the surface; local persons expressed concerns that blasting caused cracks in their structures. While a study commissioned by SJVNL concluded to the contrary, on the villagers’ insistence for monetary assistance to repair these cracks, SJVNL deposited Rs. 57.37 million (US$ 1.14 million) for payment as compensation to more than 5,700 families in the project-affected area, as recommended by a district committee.
“Though these water sprinkling trucks are paid by us i.e. by the project, village communities, through the Pradhan, monitor the daily sprinkling. Often during the farming season we get calls to operate them even late in the evening or night and we do so”...

– Project Engineer, RHP

“Farmers in our village (Bayal and Koyal) keep calling to inform me regarding the sprinkling of water for dust suppression. We are in constant touch with the project engineer who immediately acts upon our intimation”...

– Pradhan, Gadej Panchayat

*Mitigation of impact on crops due to dust*: To mitigate the impact of dust from construction on farm productivity and damage to crops, which constitute the main livelihood source in the area, SJVNL deposited compensation with the district administration, to be disbursed to those affected.

However, to supplement the compensation, SJVNL also took preventive measures with two water tankers, carrying 5,000 liters in total, to make four trips around the area and sprinkled 20,000 liters each day, depending on the harvest and rainy season. Village communities monitor this initiative, informing the panchayat Pradhan of shortfalls, which the project automatically rectifies.
Implementation Practices in SJVNL’s Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project

The Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project (NJHP) is the first hydropower project constructed by SJVNL while Rampur Hydropower Project is the second hydropower project to be constructed by SJVNL. NJHP is a 1500 MW run of the river project located on River Sutlej, in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh. A Memorandum of Understanding for execution of the project was signed between GoI and Government of Himachal Pradesh in July 1991. The World Bank had provided financing for the construction of the project in March 1989. The project was commissioned in May 2004.

To respond to the demands and expectations of the local people, SJVNL has implemented the following innovative measures during later part of the project implementation and the same are being continued post commissioning of the project also under the community development fund that has been set up by SJVNL for the project area;

Special package for landless project-affected families: SJVNL acquired 224 hectares of private land from 480 families, rendering 62 families landless - landholding of less than 5 bighas (0.3760 ha) post-acquisition. The district administration found that the actual number of landless project-affected families had increased from 62 to 120, of which 61 families had already been provided employment with the project.

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13 SJVNL was known as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation (NJPC) at the time of construction of this project.
Since SJVNL was a single project organization (at that time) with limited employment potential, this led to litigation seeking enhancement of compensation and provision of employment. Thus, SJVNL proposed a special assistance package for economic rehabilitation of the remaining 59 landless project-affected families, which comprised a lump-sum between Rs. 0.20 million (US$ 4,000\(^{14}\)) to Rs. 0.30 million (US$ 6,000) as an income enhancement measure, while retaining their entitlement for employment with the NJHP, whenever vacancies arose. So far 55 project-affected families have opted for this special package and have utilized the amount for income generation.

**Resettlement colony at NJHP:** For resettlement, SJVNL offered displaced families two choices:

- self-relocation with a grant to construct a house up to 45 sq. m.; or
- shift to a house of 45 sq. m. at the Jhakri Resettlement Colony.

The project developed a resettlement colony of 25 units with two bedrooms, attached bathroom, toilet and kitchen, each unit costing approximately Rs. 0.5 million (US$ 10,000). Twenty-three families belonging to the same village, Jhakri, continued to live close to their original habitation and acknowledged the contribution of the project in improving their overall living standards with the following outcomes:

- permanent houses replaced temporary structures in a small yet developed colony;
- full-fledged medical facility set up;
- provision of electricity, including street lighting, internal approach paths, sewerage and drainage;
- free piped water supply; and
- resettled families own assets such as refrigerator, television, gas stove, and mobile phone.

**Community Development Activities.** During the implementation of this project, SJVNL implemented a number of measures for the benefit of the local communities. Some of those activities includes (i) running of uninterrupted mobile health van since January 2000, to promote health and hygiene awareness and provide treatment\(^{15}\); (ii) financial support of Rs. 80 million for the construction of 200 bed hospital in Rampur which is now serving as an important referral hospital in the region; (iii) providing merit scholarships for pursuing higher and professional courses; (iv) support to welfare programs such as awareness camps to the villagers in agricultural, horticultural and veterinary practices through local universities, grants to Mahila Mandals, support for drinking water facilities, etc.

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\(^{14}\) Exchange rate used is US$ 1 = Rs. 50, while the actual figures in US$ will be higher

\(^{15}\) Given the location of project in an underdeveloped area with limited availability of good quality medical facilities, SJVNL commissioned its first mobile health van in 2000 which: (i) visited affected villages four days a week and provided consultation and medicines; (ii) organized medical camps at schools and villages; (iii) afforded easy access and extra diagnostic facilities and free medicines for residents; and (iv) helped improve health status and awareness of preventive practices for common ailments.
Community Development Fund: Based on the experience gained in the implementation of small infrastructure facilities and other welfare programs during the project implementation, SJVNL set up a Community Development Fund in 2003 to make available a dedicated fund for infrastructure development in the neighbouring villages. The SJVNL management approved the setting up of this fund in 2003 with an annual budget of Rs. 15 million per year. Out of this, Rs. 10 million is earmarked for infrastructure works in the affected villages and the balance Rs 5 million is earmarked for welfare activities such as health services, merit scholarships, sports, drinking water, etc. Since then the Community Development Fund has supported: (i) infrastructure such as school building, playground, village paths, community buildings; (ii) scholarship scheme to children of project-affected families pursuing vocational and professional courses and fee concession to children of project-affected families in the project school, namely Delhi Public School (DPS) Jhakri; (iii) infrastructure aids and facilities to schools; (iv) mobile health vans and health camps; (v) agriculture and horticulture camps; (vi) apprenticeship schemes for youth; (vii) water supply schemes; and (viii) sports and cultural activities.
View of Intake (Top) and Power House (Bottom) of Rampur Hydropower Project