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CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 GENERAL

Chenab is a major river of the Indus Basin originating from the Great Himalayan and Pir Panjal ranges, having snow covered slopes from El. 3500 m to El.± 7000 m above MSL. The river is formed by two major tributaries in the head reaches, namely Chandra and Bhaga. The Chandra originates from Bara Lachala and is further augmented by Chandra Tal whereas the Bhaga takes off from Suraj Tal in the vicinity of Bara-Lachala and is further joined by Jhankar and Millang Nallahs before it joins Chandra at TANDI to form Chenab. The river in its course traverses through district Lahaul & Spiti and district Chamba of Himachal Pradesh before it crosses into Jammu & Kashmir, downstream of Biana Nallah. The catchment area above El. ± 4500 m remains under permanent snow cover and provides for bulk of the perennial flow. The topographical features of the catchment and the flow characteristics of the river combine suitably at a large number of locations to provide potential sites for locating hydroelectric projects. A master plan for harnessing the hydel potential of the river, within the territory of the Himachal Pradesh had been drawn by Himachal Pradesh as early as 1970-71 and schemes totaling an installation of 1037.8 MW had been identified. Of this potential, a very small fraction has so far been exploited in the form of Sissu (100 KW), Billing (200 KW), Shansha (200 KW) & Thirot (4.5 MW) only.

2.1.1 RIVER CHENAB AND CATCHMENT CHARACTERISTICS

The river originates from the snow covered slopes of Great Himalayan of Pir-Panjal ranges in Lahaul Spiti district and flows in a steep gradient with a series of loops and bends. The river is formed by the two major

tributaries in the head reaches namely Chandra and Bhaga. The river Chandra originates from Bara Lachala and is further augmented by Chandra Tal. The river Bhaga takes off from Suraj Tal in the vicinity of Bara Lachala and is further joined by Jhankar and Millang nallahs in the head reaches. The catchment of these two major tributaries have snow covered peaks at height ranging from El. \pm 3500 m to \pm 5500 m. The Chandra river and Bhaga river joins at Tandi to form Chandra-Bhaga i.e. the Chenab. Further downstream of confluence it is joined by other significant tributaries namely Shansha nallah near Rashil and Thirot nallah at Thirot, Miyar nallah at Udaipur, Saichu nallah at DAWAG, Mahal Nallal at Killar, Dheda nallah and Lujai nallah d/s of Killar. Chenab river drains a catchment of about 7500 Sq. Km. before it crosses in to J&K border.

2.2 POWER ABSORPTION IN NORTHERN REGION

2.2.1 POWER LOAD DEVELOPMENT

The Northern Region comprises the states of Himachal, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Union territory of Delhi and Chandigarh. The Northern Regional Power Grid comprises the power system controlled by the Electricity Boards of above states/Union territories and Bhakhra Beas Management Board.

The Power system in this region is now operating in an inter-connected and coordinated manner. Even in coordinated operation of existing hydro, nuclear and thermal power station, including benefits from the ongoing projects and as well from the new schemes cleared by CEA, the Northern region is expected to face severe power deficits in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

CHAPTER-IV

GEOLOGY

4.0 INTRODUCTION

The Central Electricity Authority in an effort to assess the balance hydroelectric potential in the country carried out ranking studies for about 400 schemes identified in order of priority and have proposed three schemes on the river Chandra. Gondhala Hydroelectric Project is envisaged on Chandra river upstream of its confluence with Bhaga river in Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

Of the three proposed schemes, Raling is easternmost scheme while Jhalma is western most proposed to be located downstream of confluence of Chandra and Bhaga rivers. Gondhala Hydroelectric Project has been proposed downstream of Raling project on the river Chandra. The project envisages construction of a diversion barrage across Chandra river just upstream of shulling village, a 10870m long HRT and a power house on the right bank of river Chandra near Tandi ±600 m upstream of the confluence of Bhaga river with installed capacity of 144 MW utilizing a net head of 134 m. The project lies between Longitudes 76°-58'-28"E to 77°-4'-34"E and latitudes 32°-32'-45"N to 32°-29'34"N.

4.1 REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The area where project is located forms a part of the Great Himalayan Range and constitutes both northern and southern slopes of Chandra valley. The altitude in the area varies between 2750m and 6020m. The terrain in upper reaches of tributaries shows typical glacial landscape characterized by rugged towering peaks, cirque glaciers and morainic deposits. Chandra river forms main drainage of the area. It is joined by a

number of tributaries on its either bank. These are mostly snow/ glacier fed. These tributaries show sub-dendritic to trellis pattern. The higher reaches of slopes on either side of Chandra River have a number of glaciers which form the perennial source of discharge in tributaries. There are several conspicuous moraines which are well developed towards left bank. There are a number of water falls in the area of which the one at Sissu village and that about 4 km upstream of Sissu Nala are prominent ones. The presence of abundant water falls in the area, besides glacier fed discharge is attributable to thick bedded nature and sub-horizontal disposition of rocks. Besides, lakes are also a common features in glacial terrain. The lower Chandra valley is characterized by the river terraces which are being used for habitation and cultivation by local habitants. Although three levels of terraces have been identified in Sissu area, only one prominent terrace has been identified in Chhatru and Khoksar areas. These terraces are very thick and extend up to 3225 m elevation in lower reaches i.e. near Sissu and Retil villages.

The valley slopes in the area are characterised by the stretches of unusually abundant debris. These could have been formed due to the fractured or weathered rocks transported in abundance by snow, avalanche and landslides to the lower elevations on the banks of the river.

The area around the proposed project exposes the rocks belonging to Rohtang Group of rocks of Pre-Cambrian age (Prashara & Kumbkarni, 1986-87). But same has been named as Lahaul Group by Prashara (1992). At higher elevations, the Rohtang Group is succeeded by the rocks belonging to Haimanta Group in the east and those belonging to Vaikrita Group extending from Chandra area in west.

The Pre-Cambrian stratigraphic succession in the area given by Prashara et al (1986-87) and Prashara (1992) is given below:-

Table-5.3(6)

YEAR	MONTH		TANDI D/SITE Qx (Cumecs)	GHOUSAL D/SITE Qy (Cumecs)	LOG x	DEVIATION FROM MEAN			X^2	X*Y	
			LOG y	X LOGx-LOGx'		Y LOGy-LOGy'					
1983-84	OCT	I	45.51	76.00	1.6581	1.8808	0.5545	0.5055	0.3075	0.2803	
		II	27.07	51.00	1.4325	1.7076	0.3289	0.3322	0.1082	0.1093	
		III	17.04	33.00	1.2315	1.5185	0.1279	0.1432	0.0164	0.0183	
	NOV	I	12.42	27.00	1.0941	1.4314	-0.0095	0.0560	0.0001	-0.0005	
		II	11.67	25.00	1.0671	1.3979	-0.0365	0.0226	0.0013	-0.0008	
		III	11.10	23.00	1.0453	1.3617	-0.0583	-0.0136	0.0034	0.0008	
	DEC	I	10.40	20.00	1.0168	1.3010	-0.0868	-0.0743	0.0075	0.0064	
		II	9.55	19.00	0.9801	1.2788	-0.1234	-0.0966	0.0152	0.0119	
		III	3.42	18.00	0.5340	1.2553	-0.5696	-0.1201	0.3244	0.0684	
	JAN	I	11.03	19.00	1.0426	1.2788	-0.0610	-0.0966	0.0037	0.0059	
		II	10.59	19.00	1.0249	1.2788	-0.0787	-0.0966	0.0062	0.0076	
		III	10.06	18.00	1.0026	1.2553	-0.1010	-0.1201	0.0102	0.0121	
	FEB	I	9.62	17.00	0.9829	1.2304	-0.1206	-0.1449	0.0146	0.0175	
		II	9.07	17.00	0.9576	1.2304	-0.1460	-0.1449	0.0213	0.0211	
		III	8.73	16.00	0.9410	1.2041	-0.1626	-0.1712	0.0264	0.0278	
	MAR	I	9.65	16.00	0.9845	1.2041	-0.1191	-0.1712	0.0142	0.0204	
		II	11.19	18.00	1.0488	1.2553	-0.0548	-0.1201	0.0030	0.0066	
		III	11.48	19.00	1.0599	1.2788	-0.0436	-0.0966	0.0019	0.0042	
	APR	I	11.91	20.00	1.0759	1.3010	-0.0277	-0.0743	0.0008	0.0021	
		II	10.85	20.00	1.0354	1.3010	-0.0682	-0.0743	0.0046	0.0051	
		III	15.00	26.00	1.1761	1.4150	0.0725	0.0396	0.0053	0.0029	
	MAY	I	28.03	45.00	1.4476	1.6532	0.3440	0.2779	0.1184	0.0956	
		II	33.90	74.00	1.5302	1.8692	0.4266	0.4939	0.1820	0.2107	
		III	72.58	125.00	1.8608	2.0969	0.7572	0.7216	0.5734	0.5464	
G.TOTAL					264.86	330.08	0.00	0.00	15.65	14.99	
NO. OF PERIOD			240		LOG x'	LOG y'					
AVERAGE					1.1036	1.3753					
Co-efficient of Correlation											
b	=	SIGMA	X*Y	=	0.9580						
		SIGMA	X^2								

YEAR	MONTH		UDAIPUR D/SITE Qx (Cumecs)	TDI.+GSL D/SITE Qy (Cumecs)	LOG x	LOG y	DEVIATION FROM MEAN		X^2	X*Y
							X LOGx-LOGX'	Y LOGy-LOGy'		
	DEC	I II	42.00 39.00	30.40 28.55	1.6232 1.5911	1.4828 1.4557	-0.1307 -0.1629	-0.0830 -0.1102	0.0171 0.0265	0.0109 0.0180

YEAR	MONTH		UDAIPUR	TDI.+GSL	LOG x	LOG y	DEVIATION FROM MEAN		X^2	X*Y	
			D/SITE Qx (Cumeecs)	D/SITE Qy (Cumeecs)			X LOGx-LOGX'	Y LOGy-LOGY'			
	JAN	III	36.00	21.42	1.5563	1.3308	-0.1977	-0.2350	0.0391	0.0465	
		I	35.00	30.03	1.5441	1.4776	-0.2099	-0.0883	0.0441	0.0185	
		II	35.00	29.59	1.5441	1.4711	-0.2099	-0.0947	0.0441	0.0199	
	FEB	III	32.00	28.06	1.5051	1.4481	-0.2488	-0.1178	0.0619	0.0293	
		I	30.00	26.62	1.4771	1.4251	-0.2768	-0.1407	0.0766	0.0390	
		II	28.00	26.07	1.4472	1.4161	-0.3068	-0.1497	0.0941	0.0459	
	MAR	III	22.00	24.73	1.3424	1.3932	-0.4115	-0.1726	0.1694	0.0710	
		I	33.00	25.65	1.5185	1.4091	-0.2355	-0.1568	0.0554	0.0369	
		II	33.00	29.19	1.5185	1.4652	-0.2355	-0.1006	0.0554	0.0237	
	APR	III	36.00	30.48	1.5563	1.4840	-0.1977	-0.0818	0.0391	0.0162	
		I	42.00	31.91	1.6232	1.5039	-0.1307	-0.0619	0.0171	0.0081	
		II	51.00	30.85	1.7076	1.4893	-0.0464	-0.0766	0.0022	0.0036	
	MAY	III	69.00	41.00	1.8388	1.6128	0.0849	0.0469	0.0072	0.0040	
		I	128.00	73.03	2.1072	1.8635	0.3532	0.2977	0.1248	0.1051	
		II	180.00	107.90	2.2553	2.0330	0.5013	0.4672	0.2513	0.2342	
		III	353.00	197.58	2.5478	2.2957	0.7938	0.7299	0.6301	0.5794	
G.TOTAL					420.95	375.80	0.00	0.00	17.53	15.36	
NO. OF PERIOD			240		LOG x'	LOG y'					
AVERAGE					1.7540	1.5658					
Co-efficient of Correlation											
b	=	SIGMA	X*Y	=	0.8766						
		SIGMA	X^2								

CHAPTER- IX

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

9.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

This Project is a run-of- the river scheme on Chandra river located upstream of the confluence of Chandra and Bhaga rivers at Tandi. The Power House is proposed on the right bank of Chandra river near Tandi ±600 m upstream of the confluence of Bhaga river. The Project area falls in Tehsil Keylong, Distt Lahaul & Spiti, H.P.

The Project envisages construction of a diversion barrage ± 16 m high just upstream of village Shulling for diverting a discharge of 119 cumecs through 10870 m long head race tunnel aligned on the right bank to surface Power house near Tandi utilizing a gross head of 153.22 m for generating 144 MW of power.

9.1 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

9.1.1 PHYSICAL RESOURCE

9.1.1.1 HYDROLOGY

Chenab is a major river of the Indus Basin originating from the snow covered slopes of Great Himalaya of Pir-Panjal ranges in Lahaul Spiti district and flows in a steep gradient with a series of loops and bends. The two major rivers in the head ridges namely Chandra and Bhaga form the Chandra- Bhaga (Chenab) river.

The river Chandra originates from Bara- lachala and is further augmented by Chandra Tal. The river, after flowing for more than 48 km in south westerly direction turns abruptly to the west and flows for another 64 km

until it meets the Bhaga river at Tandi. The average fall of the river is 1 in 60. The first 80 km of the valley is completely uninhabited, represented by barren, eroding mountain slopes, with large alluvial flats and fans at places.

The Chandra Bhaga (Chenab) flows North West and maintains an average fall of 1 in 176. After traversing a distance of about 101 km from the confluence at Tandi, it passes at Karunala into Pangi valley of Chamba District. From Thirot onwards the river, in places, passes through rocky gorges several metres deep.

9.1.1.2 GEOLOGY

Great mass of the mountains is composed of ancient rocks of the Lurian age, chiefly Schists, Slates and Balaini conglomerates. The principal rock formation is Mica schist, Shale and Sandstone. Taken as a whole, the rock system is very fragile and liable to erosion, which is often accentuated by the rigours of severe winter, avalanches and the strong winds that accompany them.

The insolation and absence of any water action has led to the accumulation of abundant detrital products on dry uplands and valleys forming the mantle rock of regolith of fresh, un-decomposed fragments. The bare mountains thus exhibit typical desert colouration of rocks due to peculiar solar weathering.

9.1.1.3 SOIL

The soil is generally grey and light, characterised by scanty plant cover and low fertility status. In the absence of any substantial leaching of minerals from the soil, the bases are continuously added to the soil complex, rendering pH to the alkaline side.

The soil in the Chandra valley is loam to sandy loam with gravel. Its depth varies inversely with slope. Generally on ridges, spurs, precipitous slopes and southern aspects soil tends to be shallow and dry with numerous outcrops of bare rocks or its strew with boulders. In the vicinity of villages and nearby areas, denuded slopes are subjected to year round concentrated grazing leading to poor soil. On northern aspects, in folds and hollows as also on easier slopes the soil is fairly deep and fertile for tree growth. It is for this reason that the better forests in this region are on the left bank of the river Chandra

9.2 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCE

9.2.1 FORESTS

Owing to high elevation and severe climatic conditions, the valley does not possess any forest for the first 60 km of its start except for one small patch of birch forest on the left bank of Chandra about 4 km up stream Gramphoo. As the river progresses from Khoksar towards Tandi, there is very scanty natural growth of Kail, Fir and Birch. The stocking of these forests in general is very poor and in most of the areas there are only scattered or stray trees while canopied forests occur only in a few situations. In canopied forests too, there are frequent blanks along nullahs due to avalanches. There are few scattered trees of Juniper also. Natural growth of trees, in general, is very poor and slow. However, there are some very good patches of natural regeneration.

9.2.2 FLORA AND FAUNA

9.2.2.1 FLORA

Plants (Trees species) found in the area are as under:

S.N.	English Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Pencil Cedar	Devi diar	<i>Juniperus macropoda</i>
2	Birch	Bhoj patra	<i>Betula utilis</i>
3	Salix	Willow/ Beli	<i>Salix</i>
4	Blue Pine	Kail	<i>Pinus wallichiana</i>

9.2.2.2 MEDICINAL PLANTS

IMPORTANT MEDICINAL PLANTS FOUND IN THE AREA ARE

S.N.	Common Name	Botanical Name
1	Patish	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>
2	Mitha Telia	<i>Aconitum violaceum</i>
3	Gandha	<i>Artemisia maritima</i>
4	Kuth	<i>Saussurea lappa</i>
5	Karoo	<i>Picorrhiza kurroo</i>
6	Ban Kakri	<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i>
7	Dhup	<i>Jurinea macrocephala</i>
8	Shingli Mingli	<i>Dioscorea deltoides</i>
9	Wild Rose	<i>Rosa webbiana</i>
10	Seabuck Thorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>
11		<i>Ephedera gerardiana</i>
12	Patishan roots	<i>Heracleum candidans spp.</i>
13	Chora	<i>Angelica glauca</i>
14	Ban Ajwain	<i>Thymus sephylum</i>
15	Nihani	<i>Valeriana hardwichii</i>

9.2.2.3 HERBS AND SHRUBS

Other common herbs and Shrubs found in the area are as under:

SNo	Common Name	Botanical Name
1	Local gulab	<i>Rosa webbiana</i>

2	Local gulab	<i>R. foetida</i>
3	Local gulab	<i>R. macrophylla</i>
4	Seabuckthorn	<i>Hyphopae rhamnoides</i>
5	Seabuckthorn	<i>H salicifolia</i>
6	Seabuckthorn	<i>H tibetana</i>
7		<i>Aconogonium</i>
8		<i>Eremurus himalaicus</i>
9		<i>Polygonum</i>
10		<i>Rumex</i>

9.2.2.4 GRASSES

IMPORTANT GRASSES FOUND IN THE AREA ARE AS UNDER

SN.	English Name	Scientific Name
1		<i>Agropyron longearistatum</i>
2	Brome grass	<i>Bromus asper</i>
3	Cocks foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
4	Fescues	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
5	Lucerne	<i>Medicago falcata</i>
6	Alfa Alfa	<i>Medicago media</i>
7	Clover	

9.2.3 FAUNA

9.2.3.1 ANIMALS

Important animals found in the area are

S.N.	English Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
2	Ibex	Tangrol	<i>Copra siberica</i>
3	Goral	Goral	<i>Cemes goral</i>

4	Blue sheep	Bharal	Ovis nahura
5	Brown bear	Bhalu/ Omo	Ursus arctos
6	Black Bear	Kala Bhalu	Ursus torquatus
7	Wolves	Shankhu	Canis lupus
8	Fox	Lomari/ Gidar	Vulpes montana

9.2.3.2 BIRDS

SOME COMMON BIRDS FOUND IN THE AREA ARE AS UNDER

S No.	English Name	Common Name	S. Name
1	Himalayan Snow Cock		Tetraognillo shimalayans
2	Snow pigeon		Columba spp
3	Crow		
4	Jungle Crow	Kawa	Corus macrorhynches
5	Dove	Panduk	Streptopelia
6	Blue rock pigeon		Columbia livia
7	Owl	Ullu	Glaucidium

9.3 BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

9.3.1 CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE

The high mountains of Central Himalaya act as a barrier and block the rain bearing winds from the south and as such, receive very little or no rain during the whole year. However, during winters, which usually starts from the end of September in most of the areas receives snowfall and this continues even up to May. Summers are brief while winters are quite long.

**9.3.1.1 TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND SNOWFALL DATA OF
PATSEO (ADJOINING LAHAUL VALLEY)**

Year	Month	Temperature ° C		Snow Fall-cm	Rain Fall-mm
		Max	Min		
1983	Nov	1.14	-4.54	0	0
	Dec	-0.22	-5.76	1.25	0
1984	Jan	-1.86	-8.76	4.57	0
	Feb	-2.21	-8.15	4.37	0
	Mar	2.83	-5.44	7.07	0
	Aprl	3.20	-3.62	5.28	0
	May	5.22	-1.07	0	0.75
	Nov	1.59	0.389	1.5	0
	Dec	-1.54	-5.65	14.70	0
1985	Jan	-3.41	-8.96	6.74	0
	Feb	-1.41	-9.37	4.28	0
	March	1.00	-4.63	6	0
	April	2.96	-2.94	11.08	0
	May	4.77	-0.99	15.5	0
	Nov	1.55	-3.59	0	0
	Dec	-0.04	-5.25	5.44	0
1986	Jan	-1.81	-8.58	1.5	0
	Feb	-1.48	-8.30	6.3	0
	March	-0.58	-6.78	6.91	0
	April	2.35	-4.44	7.67	0
	May	3.93	-1.87	3.67	0
	Nov	1.70	-4.08	11.37	0
	Dec	-2.09	-8.06	12.45	0
1987	Jan	-1.93	-9.06	8.6	0
	Feb	-1.33	-7.67	6.86	0
	March	1.05	-6.36	6.7	0
	April	2.33	-4.15	19.46	0

	May	2.02	-4.32	0	0
	Dec	1.60	-4.63	5	0
1988	Jan	-2.09	-6.96	4.57	0
	Feb	-0.96	-6.89	8.42	0
	March	-0.02	-6.91	13.96	0
	April	2.87	-3.29	0	
	Nov	1.56	-3.59	3.69	0
	Dec	0.24	5.40	5.72	0
1989	Jan	-1.74	-7.99	8.29	0
	Feb	-1.88	-7.28	5.30	0
	march	1.31	-5.51	5.13	0
	April	2.07	-4.38	4	0
1992	Nov	3.15	-3.82	3.40	0
	Dec	0.35	-6.53	3.67	0
1993	Jan	-2.44	-8.61	9.31	0
	Feb	0.14	-5.96	7.64	0
	march	0.22	-6.90	20.78	0
	April	3.90	-4.42	10	0
	Nov	2.50	-4.04	6.5	0
	Dec	0.77	-7.06	0	0
1994	Jan	-1.72	-8.42	9.62	0
	Feb	-0.84	-10.26	7.45	0
	March	2.83	-5.96	5.22	0
	April	3.32	-4.26	8.44	0
	May	5.94	-1.40	9.16	0.6
	Nov	2.89	-4.07	0	0
	Dec	-0.84	-6.07	7.35	0
1995	Jan	-2.59	-10.72	5.67	0
	Feb	-1.12	-7.32	5.89	0
	March	0.90	-6.72	5.90	0
	April	2.66	-3.58	8.87	0
	Nov	-1.14	-6.59	3.00	0

	Dec	-10.6	-18.7	5.31	0
1996	Jan	-1.74	-8.04	13.36	0
	Feb	1.30	-7.75	15.68	0
	March	1.55	-5.60	9.56	0
	April	2.78	-3.82	9	0
1999	Nov	2.31	-4.99	4	0
	Dec	1.76	-6.44	1	0
2000	Jan	-0.07	-7.99	0	0
	Feb	0.18	-7.87	0	0
	March	1.71	-8.95	5.80	0
	April	4.14	-2.24	2.17	0
	May	8.14	0.74	0	0

9.3.1.2 PRECIPITATION IN LAHAUL DURING THE YEAR 1989:

Month	Rainfall-mm	Snowfall-cm	Temperature ° centigrade	
			Maximum	Minimum
January	0	40	6.7	-16.5
February	0	73	6.1	-17.8
March	0	138	9.8	-13.8
April	0	78	14.8	-7.4
May	0	12	22.1	-0.9
June	10	0	25.9	2.9
July	15	0	26.8	5.3
August	0	0	26.7	6.7
September	0	0	25.6	1.3
October	0	0	21.8	-4.1
November	0	44	16.3	-7.7
December	0	68	17.9	-9.5

Air, Water, Soil and Sound data will be collected at the time of doing detailed EIA.