CHAPTER VII
CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Indian economy is predominantly a rural economy with an agricultural base. Therefore, rural electrification assumes an important role in the development of village economy. Electricity makes villages more liveable and village occupations more viable. Electric power serves a great variety of needs and activities such as agricultural, agro-industrial, industrial commercial and domestic. In agriculture, it helps in better utilisation of underground water for irrigation, saves human and bullock labour, changes in cropping pattern, increase cropping intensity etc. In agro-industrial and industrial fields it hastens the introduction of these industries, creates additional
employment opportunities and helps in better utilization of resources.

It provides modern amenities of life and, thereby, introduces urbanism in rural life. The Government and other functionaries such as doctors, bank managers, teachers etc. can be attracted and retained in villages. It increases reading habits, helps in promotion of community life, consciousness of social responsibilities and awareness of rural development efforts among rural folk.

In India, rural electrification programme gained momentum after the Third Five Year Plan with a clear policy of energisation of wells in particular and village electrification in general. The R.E.C. established in 1969, has been the main promoter of this programme, the greatest contribution being the financing of the rural electrification schemes in all states of India.

As a result of these, Himalayan efforts, 2,50,112 (43.88%) villages have been electrified and 39,49,120 wells have been energised in the country by 1980.

There is no walk of life in which electricity does not play a part. We are living in the age of electricity. Electricity is the most useful invention of science. It has helped us in every field of life.
Electricity is used now in every walk of our life. Electricity is like an obedient servant. It lights our houses, heats our rooms, cleans our clothes, cools our halls, moves our fans, cooks our food and prepares our tea. Electricity is the life of machines. What can the cranes do if there is no electricity? Life can not progress without the power supplied by electricity.

Television, radio and cinema are the wonderful contributions of electricity. In district Hamirpur, mostly peoples have radio, through radio they can hear songs, stories, dialogues, speeches and the current happening in the world. Cinemas are also situated in the district for recreation to the people. It is the cheapest recreation for people.

In district Hamirpur, number of domestic connections have gone up. Since 1980-81, domestic connections were 3252, now have gone up to 9300 in 1989-90. In domestic life, electricity is a boon. It does many of our small works like an obedient servant. It deeps our houses lighted at all times. It cooks our food, boils our milk and water, washes and irons clothes, keeps cool or heats our rooms and does various other jobs. Electric fans are very popular
electrical instrument (appliances) in the district. Others electrical appliances such as Television and tape recorder is also increasing in the district.

Increasing trends of per capita consumption in the district reveals that villagers consume various use of electricity. As a whole, we can say that standard of living of villagers are improving.

In the year 1981-82, per capita consumption was 24.71, that has been increased 45.42 in 1989-90. It reveals that people are very attractive to use electricity and they could not escape the power and usefulness.

As a result of electricification, the working hours of district domestic users of electricity have increased in late evening and early morning. It has a positive effect on reading habits of children. An increased participation in the community activities after village electrification has also been reported.

The impact of street light connections, peoples are working late night and up and down to his field freely. Electricity is also useful for distribution of water. In the district public water works and sanitation connections is also increasing in trends. T
Since 1980-81, street lights connections have increased 217 in 1980-81 to 1065 in 1989-90. In other words, we can say in one decade five times connection of street lights have been increased. According water works connections also increased 987 in 1980-81 to 1526 in 1989-90.

Due to energisation of wells farmers have reported an increase in their income and they are utilizing this income in productive uses. An increased participation in the community activities after village electrification has been also observed. Better lighting, greater security and better living has been observed.

The main problems observed in one voice by every type of electricity consumer are that of power shortage, power breakdown and voltage fluctuations. These problems are often causing heavy losses to them. The power breakdown and irregular supply has been found as the important factor for not taking electrical connections by villagers.
The R.E.C. has been the main promoter of the rural electrification programme in the district. Since, rural electrification play a vital role in the district economy and its development, suitable policies will have to be devised and measures taken for their promotion and development.

But such promotional policies and planning and developmental measures can be evolved and effectively implemented only if the various problems faced by rural electrification are properly understood in the finest instance.

Rural electrification programme are facing many problems of which the following are important ones :-

(1) The main problem of this area for rural electrification is rocky land. Because the area is not approachable so the officers and employee of the department could not reach on the spot and not give the proper guidance in the proper way.
(2) For proper executives of schemes, necessary staff is not given by the department. Since November, 1978, new appointment has been banned by the Government. But number of villages is gradually increasing. Lack of staff rural electrification scheme is not going on proper way.

(3) Loan that received by UPSEB from rural electrification corporation is oftenly misused by the UPSEB on official maintenance, and other non productive expenses.

(4) While Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board fix the target for rural electrification but target could not be achieved because there is always scarcity of facilities for implementi-
ification of schemes in the area, such as, raw material, adequate staff and transport facilities. As such schemes are taking long period and Board and Department are going in deficit.

(5) Four hundred metres lining subsidy is given in the Bundelkhand and hilly region for private tubewell connections by government. Each connection Board has to spend Rs. fifty thousand but Board do not receive any return, if boring fails due to rocky soil structure,
Electric supply has been given unmetered in private tubewell connections and nearabout averaged idea taken by transformer capacity. But this is not proper measurement, and Department do not receive proper value of electric power.

The Board has given special attention on generation of power and not on the rural electrification of rural areas. Therefore, rural electrification programmes is running short of target.

Another problem is that of the theft of electricity. Because the area of rural electrification is not approachable, so the problem of theft of electricity is increasing.

Lack of inspection and supervision of rural electrification schemes is also common.

As a whole the Government is very much interested in rural electrification of rural areas. The Government has conducted a USAID schemes in 1972 for rural electrification. At first in this area 3 blocks were adopted. Sometime later other 4 blocks
have also been adopted for rural electrification, but aforesaid problems have existed in the area so these programmes also failed. Now the Rural Electrification Corporation has subsidised all the rural electrification schemes but above mentioned problems have deterred the speedy rural electrification in rural areas.

The pace of rural electrification in district Hamirpur has been satisfactory, though there is still a lot to be done. The small size villages are scattered, therefore, electrification of these villages will require more capital investment in transmission and distribution lines. Thus electrification of these villages will be accompanied by losses when the loads are building up. In such a case, the pace of rural electrification can only be accelerated by providing special funds to the UPSEB by financing agencies like R.E.C. at liberal terms and conditions. The policy of government to reimburse the losses on rural electrification also be continued.

It should be realised that the supply of electricity is a service and amenity so essential for
ordinary living and the economic development of the rural sector. All agencies connected with rural electrification should take a liberal attitude and not count strictly in terms of monetary returns.

This is also clear that there is a growing awareness of the utility of electricity in agricultural, industrial, commercial and domestic uses and rural people are anxious to avail the supply. Rural electrification has definitely improved the agricultural production and scientific farming in the scheme areas. Electricity has significantly benefited the farmers by way of providing cheaper source of irrigation. The farmers in the villages are alive to the growing needs of the community and are keen on using increased inputs for stepping up production to make their life better and to contribute to their might to the national cause. Moreover, irrespective of some problems it has been found that the rural electrification has influenced all the facets of villages life and the rural population has been emancipated from the centuries old drudgery of rural life to a great extent in the district Hamirpur.