The basic objective of planning in India has been to achieve a steady rate of economic growth with stability, self-sufficiency, modernisation and social justice. A country's overall economic development and its level of industrialization and progress can well be gauged by the growth and progress of core sectors including power industry. Energy is an essential requirement for all human activity. It performs a dual role first, it is an input into the productive sectors of the economy, namely, agriculture and industry and thereby contributes to economic development. Secondly, it is a consumer good utilised for lighting, heating and motive power for running fans, refrigerators etc. The second aspect is particularly significant in the household sector as it has a direct impact on the quality of life. In India, we use energy in all forms ranging from nuclear power at one end to bullock power at the other. Electricity is an important component of the energy mix. In fact, globally, electricity has an increasing larger share of the energy spectrum.

Electricity plays an important role in the process of economic development. Electricity is the most versatile form of energy and provides an infrastructure for economic development. It is a vital input for industry and agriculture and is of particular importance to developing rural sector. The experiences of last few decades show that Electricity Boards are not functioning efficiently. This results in not only tremendous amount of financial loss to government exchequer, but due to irregularities and interruptions in the supply of electricity, industry and agricultural production suffers and there is incalculable amount of social loss and inconveniences to the vast
majority of people living in towns and villages due to power breakdowns.

The Haryana State Electricity Board (HVPN) is a public enterprises in Haryana having a monopoly of the generation and distribution of electricity throughout the state. The Haryana State Electricity Board came into existence in 1967. It has completed 31 years of its existence in 1998. During this period it has increased a number of all types of consumers. It has increased the total installed generating capacity in the state. Haryana is predominantly an agricultural state and majority of population lives in villages which were electrified way back in November, 1970. Thus, the Board has contributed a lot towards the development of the Haryana economy. Ultimately the Role and Performance of the Haryana State Electricity Board were chosen for an indepth study through this research project. The study covers a period of 18 years (1981 to 1999) of the Haryana State Electricity Board – its working, performance and objectives.

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