Since inter-connected systems require less generating capacity due to diversity in daily peak demands, larger and more efficient units can be installed in the region. With the result higher voltage transmission lines can be made available which has lower losses. These boards can make generation schedules to utilize optimum available capacity. Besides this, these Boards can coordinate the maintenance schedule for generating plants and can help the power sector to economise in this area and enable the plant to work efficiently with less outages.

"The Regional Electricity Boards constitute the leading edge of structural change needed to integrate the operation of India's power systems. Their future evolution will be critical to the effort to improve the efficiency of the power sector through the realization of economies of scale." (Taylor, C. 1979).

6.12 RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPORATION

Rural electrification has been a priority area in power development in India. As the benefits of electricity supply was realised the State Electricity Boards started electrification of rural areas as well as urban. In the beginning electrification simply meant
power for household purposes in rural areas. With the result power generation and power consumption was confined to a small sector. During the mid sixties due to food shortage, the Government of India had reviewed its policy on rural electrification. New diversification had taken place in the form of pump energisation to increase agricultural production.

In 1969, the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) was established as a public sector undertaking. The main objective of this Corporation is to finance rural electrification schemes and promotion of rural electrical cooperatives all over the country. With the financial help from the commercial banks and the Agriculture Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) the Corporation has financed large scale agricultural schemes in regard with energisation of pumpsets. Now its main emphasis is on the development of undeveloped and tribal areas. The pending policies of Rural Electrification Corporation are governed by the guidelines laid down by the Department of power. The basic directives emphasise that the Corporation coordinate development of rural electrification as well as development of rural infrastructure in rural areas to ensure the effect of rural electrification on agricultural production. The directives also require that Rural Electrification
corporation adopt an area development approach with emphasis on under-developed areas.

6.13 NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION

In 1976 the Electricity (supply) Act 1948 was amended to provide for establishment of generation companies under the authority of Central Government. The national companies namely the National Thermal power corporation (NTPC) and National Hydro Power Corporation were established. The National Thermal Power Corporation was given the authority to establish regional thermal power stations and made responsible for bulk transmissions from these units to the state power system. The National Thermal Power Corporation is given the charge of planning, promoting and organizing thermal power sector. The National Thermal Power Corporation is supposed to investigate new sites, prepare project reports, construct, operate, generate and maintain transmission and distribution of power generated from thermal units. It also undertakes research and development in thermal power.

The National Thermal Power Corporation has evolved its own management techniques in engineering, construction, finance, materials etc. It has been expanding its area of work.
The national Thermal Power Corporation has been able to install super thermal power projects in various regions within a short period of time. The main objectives of NTPC are -

* To establish thermal power capacity and associated transmission system within prescribed time schedule, cost and reliability level and conforming to the National Energy Plan.

* To operate its power stations at base load with maximum performance efficiency and plant reliability.

* To build in house capabilities so as to be self-reliant in respect of technical expertise and develop a cadre of skilled man-power with a knowledge of the latest technology.

* To manage the financial operations of the company in accordance with sound commercial utility practices and to generate returns as per Government guidelines.

* To develop and implement a well knit personnel policy and a comprehensive personnel programme that will be result oriented and to develop an organisational culture which motivates employees to contribute their best towards the achievements of organisational objectives.

* To function as a responsible public sector undertaking bearing in mind its commitment to the society.
At present, the National Thermal Power Corporation is carrying out the construction and operation of nine super thermal power projects, four combined cycle gas based projects and two transmission projects with a total approved capacity of 15767 MW and about 20200 circuit kilometers of associated 400/220 Kv transmission lines, widely extended all over India.

The total installed capacity of National Thermal Power Corporation's power station increased to 10125 MW in 1991 which constituted about 16 per cent of the total capacity spread all over the country. The National Thermal Power Corporation started with an approved investment of Rs. 6660 crores and authorised capital of Rs. 2500 crores in 1976-77, it stood at Rs. 18,500 crores and Rs. 8000 crores of approved investment and authorised capital respectively in 1991.

6.14 NATIONAL HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION

The National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) was established in 1976 to set up major hydro electric projects on regional and national considerations. The main objectives of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation are to plan and organise integrated development of hydro-electric power. The gamut of National