



JAKEDA- Lighting up remote villages

One of the objectives of Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) is to promote and implement projects aimed at meeting the energy requirements of remote and unelectrified areas of the State by harnessing new and renewable sources of energy.

By **S S Marazi**

Jammu and Kashmir, the northern most state in India, has some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country - but due to the geography and the current political situation, parts of the State remain inaccessible. Developing conventional infrastructure has been a challenge in the remote parts and electrification is one aspect of infrastructure that has faced problems in the inaccessible areas. The laying down of power transmission and distribution lines is not feasible in some cases due to the

difficult terrain and the huge financial implications.

Considering that electricity is a much needed commodity, the government has looked for alternate means to provide the inhabitants of these remote areas with basic lighting facilities. One solution to addressing the problem in the State, is the solar home lighting project under the Remote Village Electrification (RVE) programme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, being implemented by the Jammu and Kashmir

Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

JAKEDA is a State Nodal Agency (SNA) working under the administrative control of the Science and Technology Department, Jammu and Kashmir Government. It works for the promotion and implementation of projects aimed at meeting the energy requirements of the state in general and unelectrified areas in particular by harnessing new and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro. JAKEDA gets funds from MNRE as well as the State government for implementation of various projects in the State.

As part of the RVE programme, 1500 solar home light systems (SHLS) were installed in the Machil area of Kupwara District and 1052 SHLS in the Padder Block of Doda District of the State during the period 2006-07.

The modus operandi for implementation

As a first step, the unelectrified census villages and the remote hamlets of electrified census villages are identified. During 2008-09, in the Kashmir division a total of 68 such unelectrified villages and 67 unelectrified hamlets were identified for proposed coverage under the RVE programme. The Kashmir division covers the ten districts of Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Srinagar. While in Jammu division the exercise identified a total of 41 such unelectrified villages and 1396 unelectrified hamlets for the same period. The Jammu division comprises the nine districts of Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Jammu, Kathua, Ramban, Kishtwar and Reasi.

Next, a certification is obtained from the concerned power department/State Electricity Board (SEB), MNRE and the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC), GoI. The list of villages identified in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions in 2008-09 has been submitted by JAKEDA for the necessary vetting

A project report is then prepared by a consultant and the report is submitted to MNRE for obtaining the sanction and central financial assistance (CFA). Other means of finance are also explored. Finally when all aspects are in place the scheme can be implemented. The logistical support for the implementation is provided by the respective district authorities.

Remote Village Electrification

SHLSs were distributed in four areas of Kashmir division and three areas of Jammu division under the RVE Programme 2003-04, which was actually implemented in 2007-08 (Table 1). The target was to install a total of 8,297 SHLSs and the entire cost was estimated at Rs 1047.66

SHLS distributed under RVE programme 2003-04

Kashmir Division		
S. No.	Area	Households benefited
1.	Kandi Kupwara	1156
2.	Jumagund	185
3.	Machil	1870
4.	Keran	1265
	TOTAL	4476
Jammu Division		
1.	Padder	1053
2.	Warwan	1025
3.	Marwah	1743
	TOTAL	3821

lakhs. This cost was to be shared by MNRE, the State and the beneficiaries.

Kupwara District

Parts of Kupwara District border the Line of Control (LoC) in the thick of the Karakoram forests. The areas remain snowbound and 'cut off' for almost six months in a year and include: Machil, Keran, Kandi (Kupwara) and Jumagund. JAKEDA has provided 4,476 SHLSs in as many households, transforming the socio-economic scenario of the area. A total of 24 villages were covered and the cost of the project was Rs 565.18 lakhs. Out of this MNRE and the beneficiaries contributed Rs 429.25 and 33.57 lakhs, respectively, while the share of the State amounted to Rs 102.37 lakhs.

Kishtwar district

The mountainous terrain of Kishtwar district shares a border with Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh in the south. The remotest blocks of the district include Padder, Warwan and Marwah. The inhabitants from these blocks have to walk more than 50 kms on 'pony roads' to connect to a metal road. Here, JAKEDA has been successful in providing 3,821 SHLSs in as many households, helping to solve their basic lighting problem. Covering 26 villages the project cost was Rs 482.48 lakhs, of which MNRE and the beneficiaries contributed Rs 366.43 and 28.66 lakhs, respectively, while the State's share amounted to Rs 87.38 lakhs.

The programme undertaken by JAKEDA has been a huge success and has generated a tremendous response in the districts of Kupwara and Kishtwar, particularly in the blocks of Machil and Padder. ❁

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