

## **Preliminary Study for Development of Pumped Storage Power Plant at Maharashtra Province, India**

(Period of the study: 1 month from January, 1994    Our assignments: Environmental Impact Assessment)

### **Background of the Study**

Indian government requested Japanese government the study on the development plan of pumped storage power plant at Maharashtra province, Midwest of the country on June, 1992. Maharashtra, with Bombay for its metropolis, is the large state with the population of 78 million and its electricity consumption is the largest in the country. Although the supply of electricity was stable during the study period, the lack of electricity in a peak period was worried. Therefore, the development study for the pumped storage power plant is considered very important. Pumped storage power plant is hardly restricted by the amount of river flow and it can thus be constructed in quite wide range of both location and scale. Therefore, it might be easy to make optimum plan and there are many candidate locations in Maharashtra from the viewpoint of its geographical features.

### **Outline of the Study**

In India, many projects have been interrupted due to the problems such as environment, migration and compensation like Nalmada river development plan and Gadghar pumped storage power plant construction plan. Also, environmental factors like forest protection or infringement of vested water rights are important issues at the selection of the site. On the whole, deforestation is in progress in India and most of the forests left are designated as protection area. Consequently, the balance of development and protecting environment becomes quite a large issue. We had participated in the project as in-charge of environmental consideration and had implemented (i) the study on problems of previous similar project, (ii) collection and analysis of information about administration, organization and regulations of environmental protection and (iv) environmental impact assessment at the proposed site.

### **Our assignments**

- Extraction of problems in the environmental impact assessment processes for the past and the present power-source development projects,
- Collection and analysis of information about administration, organization, regulations and guidelines about environment protection, and
- Study on the present environmental situation through field survey.