

Huamanga, Ayacucho. Camdessus, decked out in a typical Ayacuchan poncho, accompanied Fujimori to Huamanga to launch a "Social Program Against Poverty" which was designed by the IMF "at the behest of the Peruvian government." Thus far, the program appears to be modeled on Mexico's "Solidarity" program, that is, it is not a development program, but merely an aid package which amounts to little more than the construction of a series of small projects at the district level. It does not contemplate any investment at all in those great physical infrastructure projects so indispensable for any serious and lasting industrial development program.

Just two days after Camdessus's visit to Peru, national television broadcast a kind of "taped message," in the form of an interview with the IMF director. After feeding his viewers a line about how he had witnessed "populist IMF policy" in Peru, Camdessus claimed that the Peruvian economy "is still weak," and urged "greater tax collection." Tax pressures in Peru are already the highest in the continent, approximately 20% of gross domestic product. However, the IMF calculates it at just 12%, inflating the Gross Domestic Product by as much as \$50 billion.

Camdessus attacks the military

As might be imagined, the matter of military expenditures also came up in the taped message of the IMF "visitor general." After urging the country to preserve its "macroeconomic discipline," he explained, in impeccably perverse logic, that poverty is not the fault of the IMF's "stabilization policies," but rather of misuse of resources, "as could be the case with military costs." A comment of this nature about a country which continues to wage an heroic war against terrorist subversion paints a clear enough picture as to just which side the IMF is really on.

While the flirtations between the IMF and Fujimori were reciprocal, Fujimori is nonetheless not the preferred candidate of the one-worlders. They will never forgive him for his sovereign decision of April 5, 1992 to consolidate a civil-military alliance for purging Peru's corrupt democracy, and to wage a successful and ongoing war against terrorist subversion. With his actions, Fujimori upset the synchronized agenda for Ibero-America's destabilization through simultaneous "indigenist" uprisings, such as the fabricated "Mayan" insurgency in Chiapas, Mexico, an insurgency which Lyndon LaRouche has accurately described as "Shining Path North."

Unlike Fujimori, Pérez de Cuellar has a long-standing record of unconditional fidelity to the imperial one-worldist project, as proven by his 10 years of service (1982-92) as U.N. secretary general, during which he left a bloody legacy of imposing "limited sovereignty"—together with new world order enforcers George Bush and Margaret Thatcher—against Iraq, the Malvinas Islands, Panama, El Salvador, and others.

Is nuclear power dying in India?

by Ramtanu Maitra

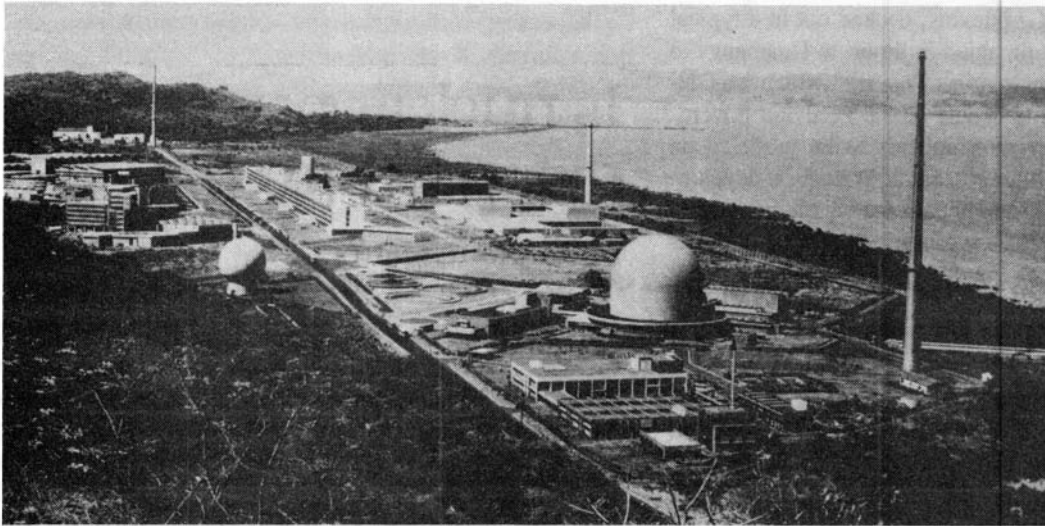
India's much-heralded nuclear power program has unraveled over the last few years, as policymakers, chanting the mantra of economic liberalization and privatization, steadily choked it of funds. At least one report, in the *India Economic Times* of Aug. 19, indicates that the government now proposes to put the atomic energy expansion projects to sleep. The reasons cited include cost and time over-runs associated with setting up nuclear power plants.

Although the Aug. 19 report was a shocker to those who realize that India's long-term power policy must center around making nuclear power plants commercially successful, there is no question that the handwriting virtually announcing the death of India's nuclear power program was there for all to see. Less than two weeks after the news item appeared in the *Economic Times*, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, laying the foundation stone for a 1,000-megawatt (MW) thermal power plant on the southeastern coast of India, made it clear that the government wants at least 50% of the resources needed for power generation during the Eighth Five Year Plan (April 1991-March 1996) to come from private investors. "If they [private investors] had not come forward, the government would have had to find the money for this purpose. From where could it get the resources, except by taxing you?" asked the prime minister.

That statement, and umpteen others issued by lesser authorities in the Finance Ministry, encapsulates present-day policymakers' total lack of commitment to make nuclear power the cornerstone of India's future power policy. Because of its strategic and controversial character, nuclear power will remain in the public sector and out of bounds for private investors. Since the prime minister said that the government's chief concern is to get private investors (preferably foreign investors) to fund half of India's power requirements expected in the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is by definition evident that nuclear power is not on the policymakers' radar screen.

Sophistry and more sophistry

The problem, however, is that any statements addressing the power issue tend to have more to do with sloganeering and less with truth. It is now well established that the government will be lucky if it manages to entice private investors to put up the funds for more than 7,000 MW of electrical power production during the plan. Never mind that the Eighth Plan,



The Bhabha Atomic Research Center in Trombay, Bombay, with the Cirus research reactor in foreground. India's once-proud nuclear program is being shut down.

which had earlier called for an additional 38,000 MW of electrical power generation capacity and was subsequently revised down to 32,000 MW for the same period, is in shambles and the power situation is getting worse by the day.

If one takes the prime minister's statement at face value, India will not be adding more than 14,000 MW by the end of the plan, which means a shortfall of 18,000 MW over and above the 20% peak demand shortages already experienced by Indians daily. In other words, it is most likely that the additional power generation capacity during the Eighth Plan may be less than the 20,000 MW added during the Seventh Plan when the Indian economy was straitjacketed by central planning and public sector funding. It seems that despite singing the paeans for economic liberalization, Indian authorities have done more damage to this vital sector following the introduction of globalization and privatization.

What it all means to the Indian economy—besides the fact that millions of workers all over the country stop work every day, 365 days a year, because of power shortages, and besides the fact that foreign investors have taken note of this pathetic state of affairs—is simply bad news. According to Saptal Manaktala, a consultant at the Tata Electric Companies, since power production and distribution accounts for one-eighteenth of the value of industrial output, the value of India's output lost to power shortages is not at all inconsequential. One study estimates, and this will be understood by the officials in the Finance Ministry where all growth is related to the casteless Gross Domestic Product, that the loss of income due to power shortages is equivalent to 1-3.5% of GDP.

Lack of concern

It is somewhat distressing to note that the government, instead of pulling itself up by its bootstraps, is passing the buck to the private sector. In this milieu, the role of the captains of the nuclear power program is no exception. Those

who have the responsibility for making nuclear power the centerpiece of India's power program, as Dr. Homi Bhabha had envisaged and the reason why the program was given a go-ahead in the 1960s despite India's overwhelming poverty, have been less than zealous in making it a success. There is no doubt that cost and time over-runs truly are phenomenal, although to begin with, some of the costing and time analysis projections can surely be questioned. Nonetheless, the fact remains that there is a gross failure everywhere in putting the nuclear power stations on line. In Asia, the examples of South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan were expected to open some eyes in India, but it has not been so. One still hopes China's growing enthusiasm for establishing nuclear power will serve as a reminder to the policymakers.

In addition to these sordid realities, one cannot underestimate the growing influence of the professional opponents of nuclear power in India. As if to support the shortsightedness of the government vis-à-vis nuclear power, these axe-grinders are already talking of giving nuclear power a burial.

A two-page review of India's nuclear power program that appeared recently in the *Hindustan Times*, a daily owned by an industrial house traditionally linked with the ruling Congress party, outlined matters concerning safety of nuclear power plants in operation. Much play was given to the alleged economic non-viability of nuclear power, citing well-known environmentalists expressing their valued opinion about such matters as cost-output ratios. No one, of course, questions why Japan, the only country which experienced the horror of atomic bombs and which has a massive electricity requirement, as does South Korea, has opted for nuclear power.

The slant in the review, however, is all too obvious. "Nuclear power is not just unsafe, but also a financial disaster. But the authorities refuse even to make public a contingency disaster plan in the event of a meltdown of our reactors. It is time the nation took nucleocrats to task," one so-called expert said.