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Examination of Certain Aspects of the  
Mahaweli Development Programme  
In its Exercise to Harness  
Natural Resources  
For Development

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Submitted on 30th April '85.

## EXTRACT

The Mahaweli Development Programme is the major national effort to utilize the natural resources available for development in a large part of Sri-Lanka. Its objectives are many. Firstly, the expansion of the extent of irrigated land for cultivation. Secondly, the establishment of new human settlements. Thirdly, increase the capacity for hydro-power generation. The basis for expansion of power generation capacity would depend largely on the Mahaweli at least till the turn of the century. Other objectives are control of floods and regional development in general.

The economic and social developmental potential the MDP offers is extensive. It provides new opportunities for development of large regions in the dry zone which have hitherto remained neglected. It provides access to the development of new resources and also serves as a spring board for further progress across a wide geographical area.

In planning and implementing a project of large magnitude and complexity, the emergence of problems is inevitable. The problems which so occurred in developing System 'H' (Kalawewa Project) are identified and examined. These lessons and experiences should benefit the planners of new projects under the programme.