

CHAPTER - III

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH

Of the three types of renewable energy mentioned above (solar, bio-gas and wind energy), wind energy utilisation is still in an experimental stage. Some progress has been made in the utilisation of solar energy, particularly in the form of Solar water heaters. Only in the case of Bio-gas, the strategy for promotion has been clearly laid down and a large number of units installed. Thus, scope for study is there only in the case of Bio-gas in terms of data availability. Hence the present study will be confined to Bio-gas promotion and particularly family size units. Which account for more than 99% all Bio-gas units installed. Also sixth plan target for community type Bio-gas plants is only 100 units as against 4,00,000 for family type plants. The dynamics or strategies of commercialisation and operation of community and institutional Bio-gas plants are different from that of family type Bio-gas plants and are not proposed to be covered in the present study.

Some of the issues related to the Bio-gas programme like its economic viability, the appropriateness of the technology for the rural community

are often debated. The not so successful performance of the programme is also partly attributed to these factors. The intensified efforts of the government to accelerate the promotion of Bio-gas in the post-embargo era (1974 onwards) added a new dimension to the programme performance; organisations. As a result of the various policy measures adopted (Section 1.2), a number of individuals and institutions are now involved in the promotion of Renewable Energy to rural areas, particularly Bio-Gas. The quality of operation of these agencies vary widely, in terms of the number of plants installed, the services provided, technical performance of the plants installed, etc. The poor performance of the agencies have been attributed to organisational factors, inadequate staff, poor training of the staff, lack of co-ordination among the agencies, lack of positive responses from the consumers arising from poor image of the organisation, skills, abilities, and motivations of the personnel employed etc.

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