

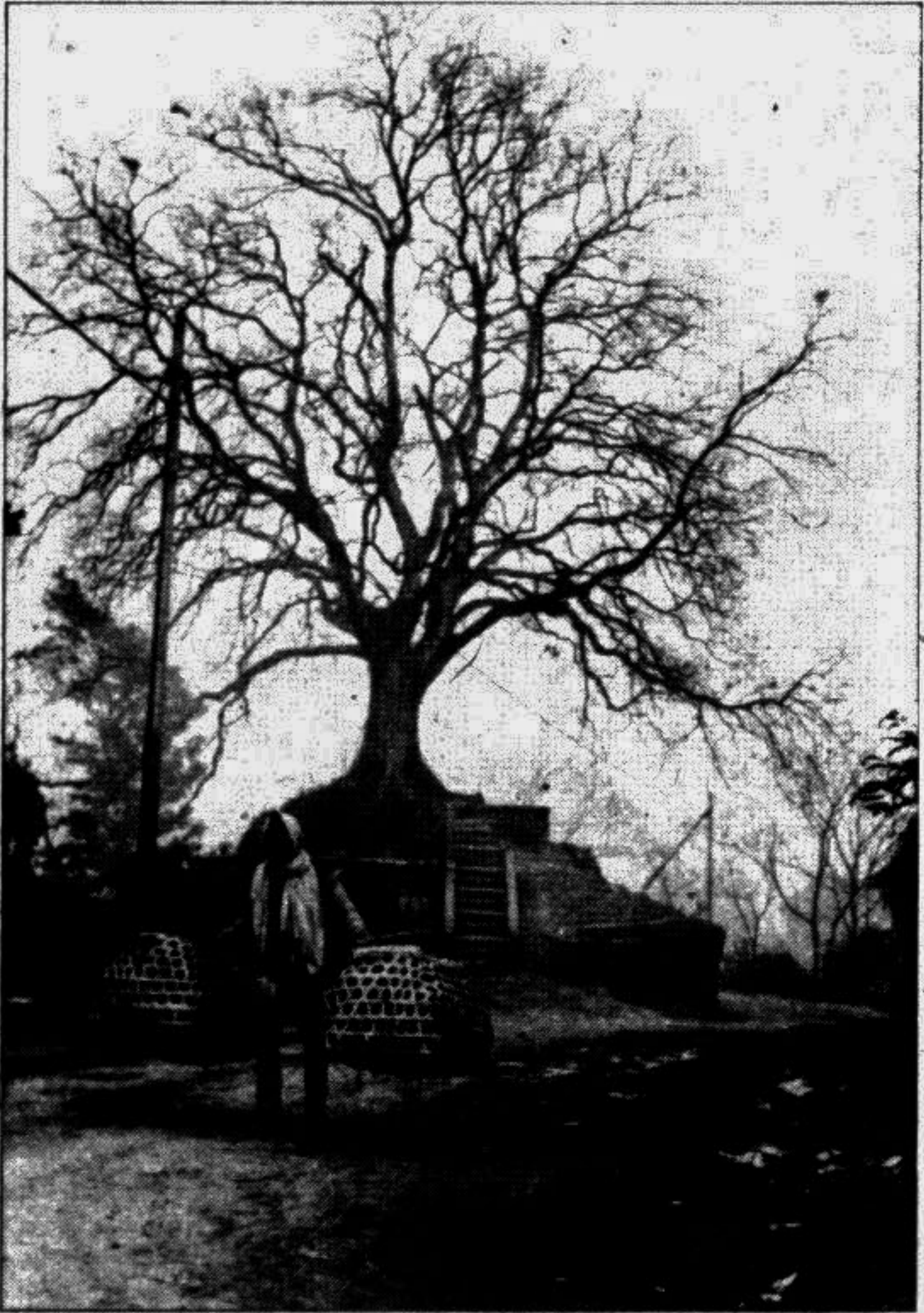
# Winter in Nepal

by J McGrath

WINTER in Nepal brings unusual rewards. It's getting pretty chilly out there, but with careful preparation, treks are possible. Braving the cold temperatures will invigorate you and make you feel like an adventurer, and you will also be graced with clear and startling views of the snow-covered Himalaya. You may even have the trails and lodges, which are packed in the high seasons, to yourself. Just make sure you plan carefully to get to your lodge or camping area early; when the sun goes below the Himalaya, it gets cold fast. Be prepared with the right cold weather clothing and gear for both you and your porters. In the winter it is wise to have a tent and food to last a few days just in case you get caught

riches of the monsoon crops harvested, the people you meet may surprise you with their broad smiles. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to be here during Tihar, the Hindu Festival of Lights. Kathmandu and the other villages and cities will be aglow with the lights of flickering oil lamps in every window.

After your return to the international cuisine and warm fires of the Kathmandu Valley, get up early to watch the prayers and circumambulations at Boudhanath — or venture out to another of the seven World Heritage Sites in the Kathmandu Valley. The long history and old cultures here are still visible around you. Many people are working to preserve this vital heritage. You can witness the wealth and



away from a lodge in a snowfall. Storms can come in fast and high passes can be dangerous. If you are advised by a reliable source not to travel into a certain area, take the advice; the mountain people know the areas well.

You'll be in heaven if you fit one of Nepal's many tatopani, or hot springs, into your trek. Soaking in the soothing hot water while you gaze on the snowy horizons will make you feel as if you've tumbled into a Himalayan oasis.

If you chance upon Mani Rimdu at Tengboche Monastery, you will see exuberant dances brought to life as the monks bless the new year — and send out vibrations of peace and good will to the universe.

After the long festivities and celebrations of Dasain, with the

artistry of the Newars which derived from a lucky cultural battle: each king of Patan, Kathmandu, and Bhaktapur sought to outdo the others by building on a grander scale. Like the Egyptians who built the ancient pyramids, the Newars wanted to praise their gods in a big way. Sit on the steps of a temple in one of the Durbar Squares and relax, watching the people go by.

You may find a peace equal to that discovered in the austere higher elevations of the Himalaya. Whether you are face to face with a blue sheep or a Bhaikrab, the transporting moment will stay with you long after your plane's wings have cleared the Valley where the gods came to play.

Country: Nepal Traveller

# The Nepalese Economy

Continued from page 8.

Under the period given, urban consumer price index grew on an average by 11 per cent annually. The fluctuation in price level is discernible, though somewhat in erratic trend. However, the price has not risen above 8 per cent per annum in recent years.

During the period under consideration, Nepalese economy therefore, does not seem to have grown satisfactorily. After the rehabilitation of democracy in 1990, the representative or

popularly elected government has been carrying out extensive economic liberalisation measures. These economic reform measures have created very conducive environment for development in various sectors of the economy both agriculture and non agricultural and public and private sectors. The process is on the move. Though no immediate tangible results are sighted right at the moment due to lag during the adjustment to new policy environment it is hoped that future may bring forth some good results.

## Excerpts from Royal Address by His Majesty the King to The Joint Sitting of the Two Houses of Parliament at its Eighth Session, December 23, 1994

"My government will make systematic efforts for giving encouragement to the private sector for establishing industries based on indigenous raw materials and also those industries that are oriented to export promotion and import substitution. The single-door system will be strengthened by improving existing institutional arrangements so as to encourage establishment of medium and large industries. Special emphasis will be laid on investment promotion, technology transfer and transfer of managerial skills in the fields of mineral exploration and mineral-based industries. The existing Industrial Enterprise Act will be suitably amended for promoting the development of all kinds of industries to be established in the national interest, including cottage and small industries and large industries. Special programme will be launched for industrial promotion. Appropriate policy and regulations will be formulated for the control and management of pollution arising out of industrialisation.

"My Government will streamline the public undertakings with a view to getting suitable return in proportion to investments made. In the transfer to private sector of the holdings of public undertakings which are deemed unnecessary in public sector in the changed economic social context, priority will be given to national investors and the employees and workers of the undertaking concerned. Efforts will be made for mobilising bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the establishment of new industries.

"My Government will follow the policy of transparency, competitiveness and openness in the trade sector. My Government are worried at the soaring deficit in the field of foreign trade. Product identification and market exploration programmes will be launched for promoting exports and making efforts for export diversification. Appropriate coordination will be maintained between the country's foreign trade promotion and protection of national industries. Transit arrangements will be made more systematic and less cumbersome. My Government will make efforts for promoting mutual trade among the countries of South Asia in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

# Nepal and its Water Resources

Continued from page 8

electricity could be used not only within Nepal, but could also be exported to neighbouring countries. Hydropower could supplement thermal power generations in neighbouring countries thereby helping to conserve non-renewable resources. This allows the hydrocarbons to be used for other beneficial purposes.

In addition to hydroelectricity generation, the development of these multi-purposes projects will help mitigate flood problems and increase agriculture production through the supply of additional water for irrigation during dry season.

## Present Status

To date, Nepal has developed only 161 Mw, i.e. about 0.2% of its total hydropower potential. Important projects which have been completed include: Trisuli (21 Mw), Devighat (14.1 Mw), Sunkosi (10,050 Mw), Kulekhani-I (60 Mw) and Kulekhani-II (32 Mw). The Marsyangdi (69 Mw) run-of-river project is expected to be completed during 1989, while 402 Mw, Arun-III project is presently at the design stage. The Karnali (Chisapani) multipurpose project (10,800 Mw) is at an advanced level of feasibility study, and the Pancheswar multipurpose project located on the border river Mahakali is at the stage of feasibility investigation.

## Prospects

There are numerous hydropower sites in Nepal which could be profitably utilized to store monsoon flows and to augment the water supply in the low flow period. Development of these projects will

River Basins	Number of sites	Gross Storage Potential Million m3	Estimated Active Storage Million m3
Sapta Kosi	5	25,550	16,550
Sapta Gandaki	7	27,230	15,140
Karnali	7	33,480	27,470
Mahakali (border river)	2	10,550	6,390
Other Rivers	9	6,481	4,836
Total	30	103,291	70,386

Source: Various Project Reports.

help supplying benefits such as: inexpensive electricity; regulated water for irrigation; flood control, and navigation.

Electricity generated in

Table 3: Economic Hydropower Potential

River Basins	Number of Projects	Capacity Million Kw	Range of B/C ratio
Sapta Kosi	40	10,860	4.10-1.20
Sapta Gandaki	12	5,270	1.96-1.03
Karnali (lower and middle reaches)	7	24,000	up to 4.0
Mahakali (border river)	2	1,125	Not known
Other southern rivers	5	0,878	Less than 2.0
Total	66	42,133	



Nepal could be transmitted to neighbouring countries. Fortunately a large population and a large number of industries in India and Bangladesh are located near the possible future project sites. This will help reduce the use of coal in India and gas in Bangladesh which could be used for other purposes. Hydropower will help reduce environmental and pollution problems. Neighbouring countries which are endowed with mineral, technological resources and economic strength, could utilize this hydropower for faster economic development in the industrial and other sectors. This will induce a chain reaction in economic growth, not only to the countries of the region, but also to the world by creating work for the manufacturing and contracting industries. A typical breakdown of inputs by hydropower projects include: electro-mechanical industries; construction industries; contractors (local and international); engineering services.

By regulated water, not only additional water requirements for around 3 million hectares of Nepal's cultivable land could be met, but also the countries in the region could irrigate much more crops throughout the year. Furthermore, inexpensive electricity could be utilized to pump groundwater during the dry season for irrigation. The groundwater aquifers would be recharged during the rainy season. This will increase the overall storage of water by increasing the holding capacity, i.e. surface reservoir plus underground reservoir and at the same time reduce flood problems.

Flooding is a major concern of the countries of the region. If one can store enough water behind large dams, the flood problems of the region could be significantly reduced. With the potential mitigation of flood problems a large area of land on the banks of the river could be reclaimed and cultivated profitably. Even for engineering purposes, the construction cost of bridges could be reduced substantially, because the required span would be reduced. Ultimately a new era will unfold which would help enhance the economic status of the people of the region.

Heartiest Felicitations to the People of Nepal on the Auspicious Occasion of 50th Birthday of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and the National Day of Nepal



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