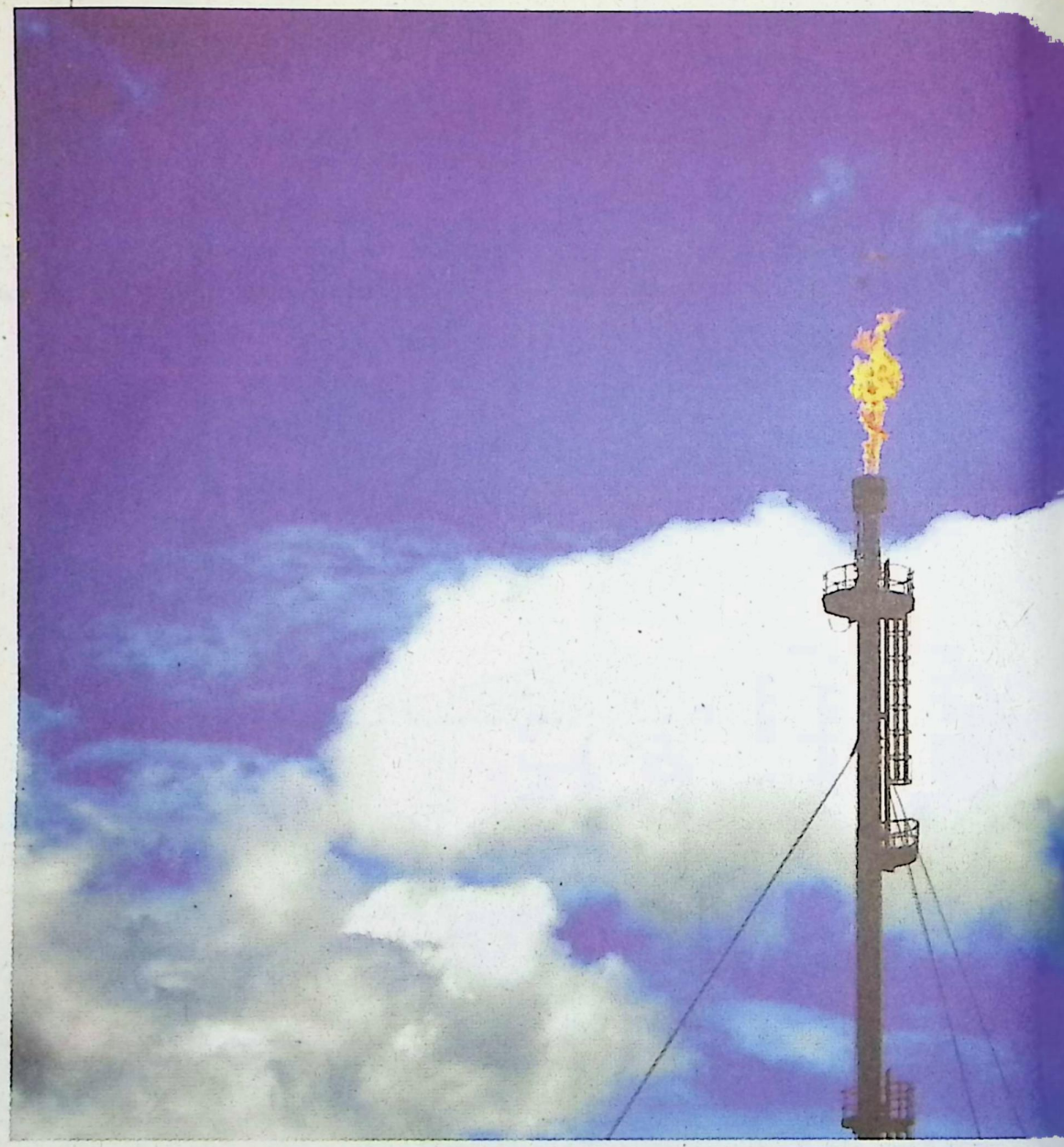


can be used to meet the greater needs of our people. Let us explore the possibilities :

Low cost solar solutions to replace kerosene: We are already installing SHS in the rural areas to light up homes and businesses. We are also promoting CFL, LED for energy efficiency and better options for our rural clients. Small SHS of 10 and 20 watts are becoming popular in rural shops and low-income households. We can also popularise solar lanterns and 5 watt SHS and this will help to promote solar among the low-income households. We can also promote small SHS in the urban areas. Scaling up of small solar energy solution could mean gradual replacement of kerosene, huge savings of our foreign currency, lesser health and fire risks and more productivity among both rural and urban low-income users.

Solar panels for irrigation: We can use solar panels for irrigation. There are some 200,000 pumps consuming around 750 MW of electricity. Every irrigation season, our rural farmers face problems as prices of diesel keeps on increasing. We can replace all the pumps with solar panels. Individual solar panels for irrigation, however, may not be cost effective. If we can install a mini-grid, then it can provide light to the village at night and pump water in the daytime. The solar mini-grid could also be connected to main