

FLOOD PROBLEM OF MAHANADI BASIN: ISSUES & MEASURES

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ABSTRACT

The flood become an inevitable phenomena for Orissa. The state is having 11 major river basins. The Mahanadi basin is the largest basin occupying 42% of the geographical area of the state. All the river basins are generally subjected south west monsoon. During June to October few depressions along with regular monsoon creates flood havoc in deltaic districts of the state. The flood caused by river Mahanadi results in most of the damage to life and property. Flood control of this basin is mainly made by age old Hirakud dam having a catchment just more than half of total basin leaving a 60000 sq.km of downstream catchment uncontrolled. At present there is no chance for construction of another flood moderation / storage structure. The delta of Mahanadi is highly developed, mostly fertile and has a high population density. So a flood of even a lesser magnitude can create a destruction. Varying climatic conditions, reduction in flood storage volume of Hirakud dam, decrease in channel capacity of deltaic rivers and so many other causes are basically responsible for flood in Mahanadi basin. This study investigates the flood problem in Mahanadi basin status of flood management measures and scope for possible improvements in the controlling measures.