ABSTRACT

Flood plays a great havoc and causes untold miseries in the area affected. Since last many years it has been observed that MAHANADI RIVER gets flooded causing heavy destruction in its basin area. Every year Odisha is getting flooded with Mahanadi River resulting vast loss of economy and livelihood.

Mahanadi’s delta head at Mundari has branched into several rivers and drains its water to the Bay of Bengal. The deltaic region is affected by flood, drainage and salinity problems almost every year due to presence of low level escapes. These escapes start functioning with a flood of 17000cumecs of undivided flood in Mahanadi at Naraj. Some part of the deltaic region is safe up to a flood of 28300cumecs due to presence of double continuous embankments. The flood at the delta head has crossed 28300cumecs eight times between1958-1998 and made serious problem to entire delta command area. The annual flood damage of the deltaic region is 37crores of rupees (1992 base). Drainage problem also poses a major constraint to agricultural development of the area.

As the flood cannot be predicted so some structural measures are to be advocated to mitigate flood damage. These measures can be like construction of another dam after the Hirakund Dam, as Hirakund Dam alone is not efficient enough to control the water of Mahanadi, canals can be widen or formed to distribute the flood water or river water of Mahanadi. And with these measures some other method should be also proposed like interlinking of rivers, widening of drainage canals , flood water routing etc…