

FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Introduction

Devastation by floods is a recurrent annual phenomenon in India. Almost every year, some or the other part of the country is affected by floods. Floods cause enormous damage to life, property-public and private, and disruptions to infrastructure, besides psychological and emotional instability amongst the people. Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) had estimated in 1980, total flood-prone area in the country as 40 million hectare (m ha) which was revised further to 45.64 m ha by the Working Group on Flood Management set up by the Planning Commission for the 11th Five-Year Plan, based upon the information furnished by the State Governments. Proper management of floods constitutes an important element in national's development activities. In order to protect human life, land and property from flood fury in the country; the state governments had been engaged in flood management works for last 5 decades and a total of 18.22 m ha area has been provided a reasonable degree of protection by the end of 10th Plan. The

Working Group on Water Resources constituted by Planning Commission has set a target to protect an additional area of 2.18 million hectare during the XI Plan.

Government of India has also been assisting the flood prone states in flood management and anti-erosion works for critical reaches, by providing financial assistance to the state Governments through a number of centrally sponsored schemes.

In order to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for undertaking flood management works in critical areas a state sector scheme, namely, "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) was launched by Ministry of Water Resources under Central Plan, at a total cost of Rs. 8,000 crore. The Government of India has approved continuation of this Programme during XII Plan with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.