

## **Flood Management through Inter-River Connectivity in North Bihar, India**

NMP VERMA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*BB Ambedkar University, Lucknow, India*

Flood disaster is a very serious problem in north part of Bihar state of India. Because of devastating flood there is heavy loss of man and materials both in agriculture and non -agricultural sectors. Sometimes even urban sector is also affected. The net economic loss is very significant. This reduces employment to the labors also Out of total disasters 7% of disaster is due to flood in India. It becomes very difficult for the government and the beneficiaries to provide relief and rescue operations. Post flood management is very difficult because of resource crunch.

In order to reduce the intensity of flood several measures have been suggested in the past. These are of both structural and non-structural nature. However in recent years several economists and geographers have suggested to connect two and more rivers for flood mitigation. The reason behind this is that all rivers do not overflow simultaneously in adjoining areas in the monsoon. Therefore connectivity can reduce overflowing in the river through diverting water to the dry river.

In the present paper it has been argued that connecting all the rivers may not be easy for a resource crunch economy. Moreover there may legal problems due to land acquisitions. Even inter state dispute may also crop up. Under these situation minor river connectivity can be taken up in the first phase. Such rivers may be connected which fall in the boundary of one state and the distance between two rivers is not sizeable. This will reduce connection cost. It is also partly free from disputes

In North Bihar there is scope of connecting several rivers for flood mitigation and post flood irrigation. Major rivers like the Ganga, Bagmati, Kosi, Karhe and others can be easily connected because of the favorable circumstances.