

S.Z. Qasim
Department of Environment
New Delhi.

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Floods have become almost a regular annual phenomenon with us. Apart from the untold human sufferings and the loss of life, the floods cause an estimated average damage of about Rs.210 crores every year. Ever since the disastrous floods in the early 50s prompted the Union Government to treat floods as a national problem, each successive Five Year Plan has provided a larger financial outlay for flood control measures. As compared to the problem, the results achieved are, however, not very significant and the unabated fury of the floods continues.

Ad-hoc approach to Flood Control

The flood protection measures are being adopted on a piecemeal basis. They are largely dictated by political considerations. Decisions at the Centre and the State levels tend to adopt an ad-hoc approach which negate the development of comprehensive and scientific solutions. As and when an area is hit by floods, human considerations along with political and other pressures mount and temporary measures are taken to deal with the situation. As soon as the flood subsides, the need for adequate and well-conceived long range flood control planning is relegated to a secondary place. Such measures may seem to pacify the public temporarily but they do not, and cannot, provide long range solutions to the containment of floods.

The flood control measures should ideally consist of: Engineering Structures and, a package of measure to protect the Environment.