

AHERAJORE IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Aherajore Irrigation Project is a barrage project proposed in Mahanadi basin across Aherajore nallah a tributary of river Mahanadi near village Debadarha of Lakhanpur Block under Jharsuguda District of Odisha. The project envisages construction of a masonry dam with two earthen dykes on left and right of the dam. The project will provide Irrigation facilities to a CCA of 2220 ha. with 100% irrigation intensity during Khariff lying in Lakhanpur Block of Jharsuguda District.

At present there is no other source of irrigation in this chronically drought prone area, inhabited mostly by backward, weaker and tribal groups of population. The project, on completion, would improve the economic condition of the people of Lakhanpur as they fully depend on the agriculture to earn their livelihood.

The site is approachable from Jharsuguda by NH-200 (Chandikhola – Kanakotra) road for a length of 50 km and panchayat road for 1.5 km from Kureimal village. The Belpahar Railway Station on the Howrah –Bombay broad gauge line is 30 km. from barrage site.

Aherajore Nallah originates from the hill ranges of Garjan R.F in Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district. It travels a distance of 22.5 km almost in south direction and finally confluence with the Hirakud reservoir near village Kureimal of Jharsuguda district at about 2.5 km down stream of proposed project site. It is ascertained from local inquiry that the flow in the nallah continues till end of March. The project is technically feasible and economically viable. The catchment area at the barrage site is 133.40sqkm. It is fan shaped and is surrounded by steep hills and covered with degraded forest growth. Aherajore is a tributary of Mahanadi. The catchment lies entirely in the Sundergarh district and ayacut lies in Jharsuguda district.

The command area is moderately populated covering 30 numbers of village. The population mainly consists of S.T & S.C and backward class people.

The left and right main canal are proposed to take-off through the H.R. from the barrage with F.S.L at RD 201.50 m. to provide irrigation to an area of 2220 Ha. in Khariff.