

NATIONAL INCOME IN 1954-55, OF THE REGION TO BE IRRIGATED BY THE HIRAKUD DAM*

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In this paper I present information which was collected in connection with the larger inquiry into the "*Economic Benefits resulting from the Hirakud Dam*", undertaken by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, at the request of the Government of Orissa, in 1954. The report of this wider investigation has been submitted to the Government of Orissa. It will be shortly published by the Institute.

The waters impounded by the Hirakud Dam are going to irrigate two areas or regions, in Orissa, separated by a distance of about 200 miles. Parts of the districts of Sambalpur and Bolangir, near the Hirakud reservoir, will be irrigated. The culturable commanded area here, according to latest information, is 3,80,000 acres while the commanded area is 5,30,000 acres. The other area irrigated by the Hirakud waters is in the coastal plain in the Cuttack and Puri districts. This is the delta of the Mahanadi and is usually referred to as such. Here the culturable commanded area is 9,90,000 acres while the commanded area is 12,13,700 acres. For the purposes of the benchmark survey the commanded area in the two localities was marked off on a Survey of India 1" one square mile map and a stratified random area sample was drawn. The sample unit was a grid of 10 sq. miles of area. 9 such grids were chosen in Sambalpur-Bolangir region and 20 in the delta area of Cuttack and Puri.

We carried out, in each of these grids, a complete census of households. The census questionnaire gathered information regarding the main and subsidiary industry of the household, the land owned, cultivated, rented out or in, etc. of the household, the occupations in which each of the working members of the household engaged themselves, the number of earners who were outside the region, etc. This census was completed in three months (October 1954-December 1954) and for that purpose were employed a total of 20 enumerators, 7 supervisors, one for a batch of 3 enumerators, and 2 field controllers, one for each region, who supervised, checked and tallied the questionnaires filled out.

A total of 10,091 schedules in Sambalpur and 33,583 schedules in the Delta area of Cuttack and Puri were gathered in this census. From this a preliminary sort was carried out by separating the households which were mainly engaged in agriculture or cultivation from the rest. The ques-

* An earlier version of this paper was presented to the First Indian Conference on Research in National Incomes held at Calcutta, in July 1958.