

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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CIRCULAR NO. 283

A number of circulars are given repeating the usual provisions, the importance of technical sanction and the purpose it has to serve. Even if the architects and planners indicate certain proposals, the engineers technically sanctioning the proposals following the drawings have to exercise certain restraints and care in preparing the estimates covering these provisions. While precedents and existing instructions regarding standards and scale of provisions shall always be kept in mind, one has to achieve economy and assess whether the provisions made in the estimates are really appropriate, necessary and above all economical. Sometimes even a scheme very well conceived and appropriate cannot be taken up if the expenditure is of a high volume and it is likely to set off some new standards. This does not mean that the provisions made by the architects and planners should always be put in a straight jacket and proposals modified just to see that the cost is reduced. The engineers have a tremendous responsibility in assessing the cost and expenditure and shall have a proper dialogue before such provisions are slightly modified, reduced or altered keeping in view the expenditure involved. Such an exercise will always mean a dialogue with the architects by the engineers who are technically sanctioning the estimates. A proper solution is to finally emerge which takes into consideration the architect's ideas and the financial availability, norms etc. If certain deviations are to be made to accommodate and take into full cognizance the architect's proposals, this shall be finalised only after discussions, in which sometimes even the finance have to be associated before a final decision is taken.

Economy is essential in all our works. Economy does not come suddenly nor it shall be restricted to only in big works. Economy should be the underlying idea in every work. However, a very open mind is necessary at the level of technically sanctioning authority to assess that the economy we are achieving is reasonable with safety and

soundness of the structure and its maintainability. The technically sanctioning authority does a very challenging task when he applies his mind to these considerations. It is only for this purpose that delegated powers are given to various officers to use their discretion, technical knowledge and experience for finding proper specifications, method of work, criteria of acceptance etc. while technical sanction is accorded.

It is also seen that at some times due to pressure of very high authorities, some works are taken up by the engineers in anticipation of administrative approval or some times even in anticipation of availability or confirmation of funds availability. Sometimes it is very embarrassing to tell the competent officer that the work can be taken up only after administrative approval is accorded and the position of funds is confirmed by the finance. Sometimes some higher authorities do not like such replies also. Even so, it is necessary that the engineers while taking up such unscheduled works do immediately keep the finance informed about the liability they are going to incur under the orders of an appropriate authority and finance may be requested to make the funds provision appropriately. The code itself provides for such schemes but such exceptions should be rare. In other words, the finance have to be informed about the need for funds whenever the engineering officers take up some works and expect to incur expenditure which are not within budgeted.

This is all the more important when ODA takes up works of other departments. As a rule, no expenditure should be incurred on such works unless the particular department agrees to the expenditure being incurred on the works. It is all the more appropriate if full funds are received before incurring the expenditure or at least 50% shall be received. In any case, action to incur expenditure shall be taken and tenders accepted only after a clear promise is made for funds or better still the funds are made available. If certain exceptions are to be made, we have to keep the administrative authority

as well as finance informed about the decision to incur the expenditure in anticipation. The essence of these instructions shall be adequate as guidelines for the various officers who are incharge of works.

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