

CIRCULAR No. 215

NON-FINALISATION OF BILLS

It has been brought to my notice that a very large number of bills are pending finalisation in DDA and undue delay is taking place in this regard. This situation is not acceptable and all out efforts must be made to finalise the bills at the earliest.

It is understood that quite a few bills are not being finalised on account of observations/objections raised by the Quality Control Cell or the Chief Technical Examiner. Circular No. 57 issued from the Engineer Member's office vide No. EM1(10)83/5715 dated 7th August, 1984 is, perhaps, being used as a cover for this purpose. This is not what is wanted. While issuing certain guidelines as a matter of precaution, the Executive Engineers were also asked in the Circular to take personal interest in getting the observations settled. The clearance of IC/CTE's observations is also the responsibility of the EE & his site staff and delay in finalisation of bills on this account cannot be excused.

Primarily, it is the responsibility of the Executive Engineers and the field staff to execute the work and to ensure that it is done strictly as per technical and contractual conditions. It is for the EE to satisfy himself that the work is being carried out strictly as per the specifications stipulated in the contract and payments are restricted after considering only the work which comes within the criteria of acceptance. The contract spells out various means and methods available to EE to take action against the contractor to get the work done as per quality. The technical sanction indicates the technical parameters. In case, there are some slightly defective portions which can be tolerated, departmental instructions are available which can be invoked with the concurrence of SE who can sanction reduced rates for such items. The administrative instructions also provide the proforma of the letter to be issued to the contractor in such a state where the department can accept such slightly sub-standard work at reduced rates.

All contracts provide for technical examination during and after defect liability period. However, Vigilance at the level of EE and SE in so far as the quality is concerned, is more important and they should take timely

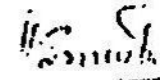
ce again referred
 rious projects
 and scrupulously.
 projects, all the
 aspects

action. Quality Control
 bill cannot be termed as solutions. Non-finalisation
 also places the Department in a weak position in Arbitration
 Proceedings. The counter-claims do not get well defined
 and left vague. Also, such counter-claims are rejected by
 arbitrator as the object of itself has not made up it's
 about the final acceptance of the work in the form of final
 bill.

The Executive Engineer's responsibility extends to
 exercise all the provisions in the contract including the
 done according to specifications. It is not only the exe-
 cution but the finalisation of the bill and settling the
 accounts which also constitute his responsibility. Non-
 finalisation of bill or undue delay in it will, therefore,
 reflect upon the Executive Engineer as non-fulfilment of the
 duties entrusted to him.

Necessary action should, therefore, be taken by all
 for early finalisation of all pending bills. They should take
 prompt action in getting the CIE's observations settled or
 use discretion of the EE and SE to settle the bill as per the
 contract. In any case, this would not be accepted as an
 excuse for non-finalisation of the bills in future.

It is proposed to have a regular review of the progress
 of finalisation of bills and poor performance in this regard
 would be viewed adversely.


 (V.S. Murthy)
 ENGINEER MEMBER.

Copies to:

1. All Chief Engineers, DDA.
2. All Supdy. Engineers/Director(Hort.), DDA.
3. All Executive Engineers/Dy. Director(Hort.), DDA.