**ITEM NO. 05 (A-39)**

1. **Name of the subject/ Project**

Change in CPWD Specification in respect of limit imposed by its water absorption in red/white sandstone work of cladding/jambs/cornice.

1. **Name of Department**

Civil Engineering Deptt.

1. **Brief History of subject/ Project.**

3.1 A Number of red/white sandstone works carried out in pavement, building and other kind of Civil construction work have not been finalized because the stone have failed in test carried out for water absorption limit imposed under CPWD specifications. The specification provides that the red/white sandstone used in all kind of construction works should not have water absorption above 2.5% of total weight of the stone.

3.2It is acknowledged by the all engineers working in NDMC that it is almost impossible to get sandstone whose water absorption capacity is less than 2.5%. Red sandstone used in CPWD work does not conform to this specification and relaxation had to be given and approved by CVC, in the year 2011 as is clear from **Annexure-I (See pages 42 – 45)**.

3.3 The previous Engineer-in-Chief, Sh. R.K. Mutreja, NDMC had approved variation upto 6% in his note dt. 07.12.2006 as indicated in **Annexure-II (See page 46)**. The red/white sandstone tested by QCTA after the samples were collected jointly by the field executives from mines, also failed in the required test because the water absorption limit was found between 4.21-5.70% of the total weight of the stone **(Annexure-III See page 47).**

3.4 The case was placed before the Council vide Item No. 8 dt. 27.11.2012. The same was deferred. While deliberating on the issue, the Council Members were of the view that NDMC is following CPWD Specifications and CPWD is Nodal Organization for Central Government, so the comments of the CPWD may be obtained on this proposal. Accordingly, the matter was referred to CPWD vide No: D-192/CE(C-III) dt. 20.12.12 for giving their recommendation on the issue of water absorption limits. Replies to the above queries have been received from SE(Quality Control) Nirman Bahwan, Control Assurance Unit vide No. G-64/SE(QA)/CSQ/4 dt. 04.01.13 **(Annexure-IV See page 48).**

“The matter, it is to inform you that in some of projects/works it has been observed that after collecting samples of best quality of Dholpur sand stone/red sandstone and testing them for water absorption test result showed water absorption of 3.0% to 4.0%. Accordingly, the relaxation of maximum permissible limit for water absorption up to 5% was allowed for sandstone cladding work for only particular projects. This is for your information and further necessary action. This issues with the approval of CE(CSQ).”

1. **Detailed proposal of the subject/project:**

The proposal is for allowing upto 6% water absorption in red/white sandstone used in various completed /ongoing works and further construction work of pavement, building and other kind of civil construction works, against the permissible limit of 2.5% specified as per CPWD specifications.

1. **Financial Implications of the proposed subject/Project.**

There is no financial implications for implementation of water absorption limit beyond the permissible limit 2.5% as per CPWD specifications.

1. **Implementation schedule with timelines for each stage including internal processing.**

The decision for implementation of the water absorption limit of sandstone will be effective as resolved vide their agenda item.

1. **Comments of the Finance Deptt. of the subject.**

Finance has seen the proposal and offered no comments.

1. **Comments of the Deptt. on comments of Finance Deptt.**

No Comments.

1. **Final views of the Finance Department.**

Finance has seen the proposal and offered no comments.

1. **Legal implications of the subject/ Project:**

“There are no legal issues.”

1. **Details of previous Council Resolutions, existing Law of Parliament and Assembly on the subject.**

N.A.

**12) Comments of the Department on the comments of the Law Department.**

No Comments.

**13) Final view of law Department (wherever necessary)**

“There are no legal issues.”

**14) Certification by the Department that all Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines have been followed while processing the case.**

Not applicable in present proposal.

**15) Recommendations**

Thecase is placed before the Council for approval to:

(i) Allow upto 6% water absorption in red/white sandstone already used in completed and in ongoing works as previous Engineer-in-Chief, Sh. R.K. Mutreja, NDMC had approved variation upto 6% in his note dt. 07.12.2006.

(ii) For works yet to be taken up a limit of 5.5% may be imposed for water absorption in red/white sandstone.

**16) DRAFT COUNCIL’S DECISION**

**Resolved by the Council to accord:-**

(i) Allow upto 6% water absorption in red/white sandstone already used in completed and in ongoing works as previous Engineer-in-Chief, Sh. R.K. Mutreja, NDMC had approved variation upto 6% in his note dt. 07.12.2006.

(ii) For works yet to be taken up a limit of 5.5% may be imposed for water absorption in red/white sandstone.

**COUNCIL’S DECISION**

The issue was deliberated at length after which the Council resolved to allow 5% water absorption in red/white stone in all works already executed, in which Engineer-in-Chief had agreed to variation upto 6% and works which would be taken up henceforth.

It was also resolved by the Council that further action may be taken by the Department in anticipation of confirmation of the Minutes by the Council.