

Section-2

Q-2 Seasoning of Timber :

Seasoning is the process of reducing the moisture content (drying) of timber in order to prevent the timber from possible fermentation and making it suitable for use.

It reduces the shrinkage and warp waiping after placement in structure.

Method of seasoning of timber :

A. Natural Seasoning

i) Air Seasoning : In this method, water or the moisture is driven out from the timber by a very slow process of evaporation. In this process the timber barks are stacked under a shed.

The timber ~~at~~ barks should be kept perfectly horizontal, to avoid twisting of timber during seasoning.

The stacks should be kept up from ground at least by 30cm. It should be made on damp proof material.

B. Artificial Seasoning : There are different types of artificial seasoning :-

i) Water Seasoning: In this method, the logs are kept immersed in ponds or in running streams with the rest ends upstream for three to four weeks. Maximum sap is washed out by this process.

It is a quick process but the elastic properties and strength of the wood are reduced.

ii) Mc Neills Seasoning: In this process, the timbers are stacked in a chamber with one-third air space and containing a large water surface to produce vapour by various hot gases as the products of combustion of fuel in the fireplace within the chamber. The time required varies with the nature of the timber, usually from 15 days to two months.

iii) Hot Air Seasoning: In this process, the timbers are stacked in racks in a hot chamber heated with steam pipe on the floor. The timbers are kept there for about three days at a constant temperature of 90°C . The hot air absorbs sap or moisture content of the timber.

iv) Seasoning By Boiling in water: Water seasoning can be hastened by using boiling water. The timber kept immersed in boiling water for four hours.

By this process the strength and elasticity of the timber is reduced, although there is a less shrinkage.

v) Seasoning By Steaming :
this is similar to seasoning by boiling, but the timber dries soon after the steaming. Steaming prevents dry rot in timber, but it is expensive.