Unit – I Elements of Cost & Cost Sheet

Elements of Cost

For the purpose of preparing financial accounts, the expenditure of a business is recorded under various accounts suitable from the view-point of final accounts. Expenditure is identified with the total turnover or income, but no detailed information is afforded of the exact manner in which the net profit or loss has been made. But under cost accounts, the expenditure is analysed by different methods and in a greater detail. The broad headings, under which the total expenditure is analysed, are known as the 'elements of cost' and they are :

(1) Direct Material, (2) Direct Labour, (3) Direct Expenses and, (4) Indirect or Overhead Expenses.

Elements of Cost

- **1. Direct Material** (Process Material, Production Material or Prime Cost Material
- **2. Direct Labour** (Direct Wages, Process Labour Cost, Prime Cost Labour, Operating Labour Cost
- **3. Direct Expense** (Chargeable Expenses: Process Expenses, Productive Expenses, Prime Cost Expenses
- 4. Indirect Expense (Overhead Expenses or On-Cost

4. Overhead or On-Cost

Expenses of a general nature, not capable of being directly attributable or chargeable to any particular job or order or unit of cost, are termed as overhead expenses. They are incurred in respect of services rendered to production as a whole *e.g.* factory rent, time keeper's wages etc. Thus, these are the expenses over and above the cost of direct material, direct labour direct expenses. It is defined in Terminology of Cost Accountancy as-

The aggregate of Indirect Material Cost, Indirect Wages and Indirect Expenses and by the word 'indirect' in this connection it is meant, 'that which cannot be allocated, but which can be apportioned to or absorbed by cost centres or cost units.'

(a) Indirect Materials : Materials which cannot be allocated but which can be apportioned to or absorbed by cost centres or cost units, such as lubricants, cotton waste, brick and cement used in maintenance of building, stores used by service department. Even though some of the materials form part of the product, they are used in such small quantities or are of so small value that it is preferred to treat them as indirect material *e.g.* thread used in clothes or nails used in furniture or glue used in cardboard boxes etc.

(b) Indirect Labour: The labour which does not affect the construction or the composition of the finished products is treated as indirect labour. Wages paid or payable to such labour cannot be attributed or allocated to a particular product but they are apportioned to or absorbed by cost centres or cost units on some reasonable basis. Time-keeper's wages, wages of factory clerks, employees in service departments etc.

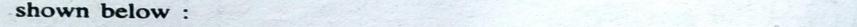
(c) Indirect Expenses : These expenses are so general in nature that they are not incurred for any particular product or service. As such these expenses cannot be allocated but they are apportioned to or absorbed by cost centres or cost units. Examples of such expenses are Rent and Insurance of Building, General Manager's Salary, Telephone Expenses, Printing & Stationery etc. Overheads are sub-divided as :

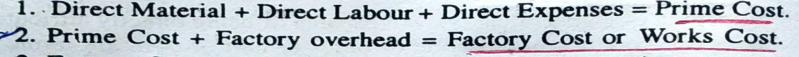
(i) Factory Overhead : Expenses which are incurred in respect of factory such as factory rent, factory insurance, depreciation of factory building and machinery etc.

(ii) Administrative Overhead : Expenses incurred by the administrative office, such as staff salaries, depreciation and repairs of office building, printing and stationery etc.

(iii) Selling and Distribution Overhead : Expenses relating to sales and distribution such as advertisement, godown rent, carriage outward, delivery-van expenses and depreciation.

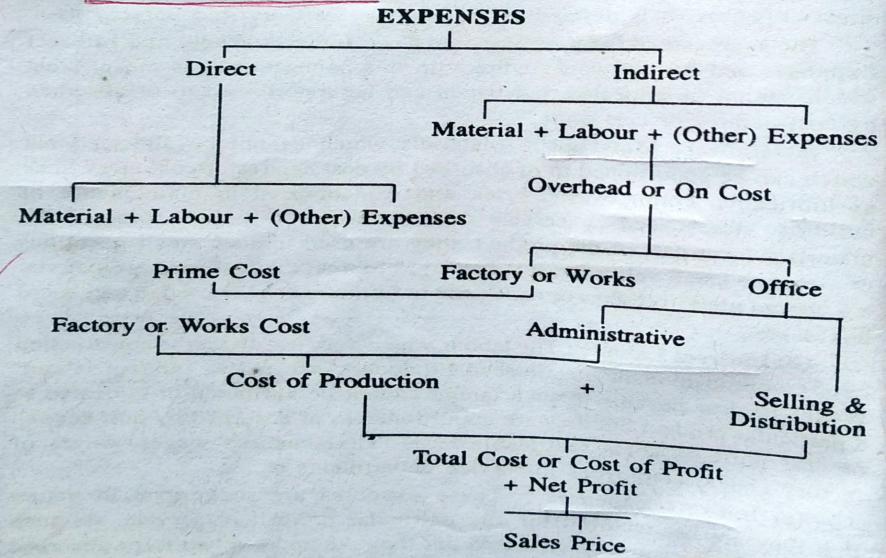
By grouping the elements of cost, Division of Total cost is made as





3. Factory Cost + Office Overhead = Cost of Production.

4. Cost of Production + Selling and Distribution Overhead = Total Cost or Cost of Sales.



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