Approximate Estimate: Definition

What is it?

An **Approximate Estimate** (or Preliminary Estimate) is a rough calculation prepared to determine the probable cost of a project quickly, without detailed drawings.

- Based on practical knowledge and cost of similar existing works.
- Evaluates feasibility without spending heavy resources on detailed engineering.
- Also known as: Budget Estimate, Rough Estimate.

Data Required for Preparation

Information Needed

To prepare a preliminary estimate, the estimator typically needs:

1. **Line Plan:** A simple sketch or rough plan of the proposed structure.
2. **Basic Specifications:** Type of foundation, masonry, roofing, etc.
3. **Past Cost Data:** Rates from similar completed projects in the same locality.
4. **Site Conditions:** Basic topography to estimate preliminary earthwork.

Purpose of Approximate Estimate

- **Administrative Approval:** It is the primary document submitted to authorities for project go-ahead.
- **Budget Allocation:** Helps funding agencies or clients allocate the necessary budget for the financial year.
- **Feasibility Study:** Essential for evaluating the Benefit-to-Cost ratio (especially for public works).
- **Alternative Comparison:** Allows quick comparison of different proposals or sites to choose the most economical one.

Accuracy vs Effort