

**(PREVIEW)**  
**HANDBOOK**  
**ON**  
**MASONRY DESIGN**  
**AND**  
**CONSTRUCTION**

**1 SCOPE**

**1.1** BIS has not yet formulated any Code of practice for design and construction of reinforced masonry since quality of bricks generally available in the country at present is not suitable for use in reinforced masonry. Bricks for this purpose should necessarily be of high strength and should also be dense so that moisture absorption is less. If bricks have high moisture absorption, reinforcement gets corroded in course of time, thereby lowering its life expectancy.

**1.2** Mud mortar for masonry as bonding material is normally not used in the present day construction because of its poor bonding quality. Mud mortar does attain some strength on drying, but it readily absorbs moisture on coming in contact with moisture or rain and loses its strength when wet. For temporary and low cost single storeyed houses, however, its use is sometimes made particularly in rural areas, when economy in cost is the main consideration. (Some information on use of mud mortar construction is given in 1.4.3.4 and 1.4.4.1 of Part 2.)