∴ Centrifugal tension,

$$T_C = m.v^2 = 0.253\ (23.56)^2 = 140.4\ \text{N}$$

Let T_1 = Tension in the tight side of the belt, and

T_2 = Tension in the slack side of the belt.

We know that maximum tension in the belt,

$$T = \text{Stress} \times \text{area} = \sigma \times a = 2.1 \times 230 = 483\ \text{N}$$

We also know that maximum or total tension in the belt,

$$T = T_1 + T_C$$

$$\therefore \quad T_1 = T - T_C = 483 - 140.4 = 342.6\ \text{N}$$

We know that

$$2.3 \log \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right) = \mu.\theta_2 = 0.2 \times 3.8 = 0.76$$

$$\log \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right) = 0.76 / 2.3 = 0.3304 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{T_1}{T_2} = 2.14$$

...(Taking antilog of 0.3304)

and $T_2 = T_1 / 2.14 = 342.6 / 2.14 = 160\ \text{N}$

∴ Power transmitted per belt

$$= (T_1 - T_2)\, v = (342.6 - 160)\ 23.56 = 4302\ \text{W} = 4.302\ \text{kW}$$

We know that number of belts required

$$= \frac{\text{Total power transmitted}}{\text{Power transmitted per belt}} = \frac{20}{4.302} = 4.65 \text{ say } 5 \textbf{ Ans.}$$

20.7 Rope Drives

The rope drives are widely used where a large amount of power is to be transmitted, from one pulley to another, over a considerable distance. It may be noted that the use of flat belts is limited for the transmission of moderate power from one pulley to another when the two pulleys are not more than 8 metres apart. If large amounts of power are to be transmitted, by the flat belt, then it would result in excessive belt cross-section.

The ropes drives use the following two types of ropes :

1. Fibre ropes, and **2.** *Wire ropes.

The fibre ropes operate successfully when the pulleys are about 60 metres apart, while the wire ropes are used when the pulleys are upto 150 metres apart.

20.8 Fibre Ropes

The ropes for transmitting power are usually made from fibrous materials such as hemp, manila and cotton. Since the hemp and manila fibres are rough, therefore the ropes made from these fibres are not very flexible and possesses poor mechanical properties. The hemp ropes have less strength as compared to manila ropes. When the hemp and manila ropes are bent over the sheave, there is some sliding of the fibres, causing the rope to wear and chafe internally. In order to minimise this defect, the rope fibres are lubricated with a tar, tallow or graphite. The lubrication also makes the rope moisture proof. The hemp ropes are suitable only for hand operated hoisting machinery and as tie ropes for lifting tackle, hooks etc.

The cotton ropes are very soft and smooth. The lubrication of cotton ropes is not necessary. But if it is done, it reduces the external wear between the rope and the grooves of its sheaves. It may be noted that the manila ropes are more durable and stronger than cotton ropes. The cotton ropes are costlier than manila ropes.

* Wire ropes are discussed in Art. 20.12.

Notes : 1. The diameter of manila and cotton ropes usually ranges from 38 mm to 50 mm. The size of the rope is usually designated by its circumference or ***'girth'***.

2. The ultimate tensile breaking load of the fibre ropes varies greatly. For manila ropes, the average value of the ultimate tensile breaking load may be taken as $500\ d^2$ kN and for cotton ropes, it may be taken as $350\ d^2$ kN, where d is the diameter of rope in mm.

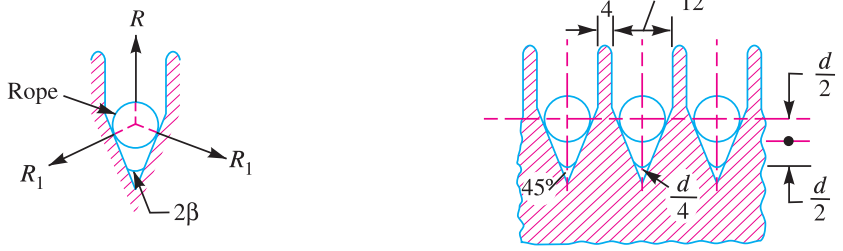
20.9 Advantages of Fibre Rope Drives

The fibre rope drives have the following advantages :

1. They give smooth, steady and quiet service.
2. They are little affected by out door conditions.
3. The shafts may be out of strict alignment.
4. The power may be taken off in any direction and in fractional parts of the whole amount.
5. They give high mechanical efficiency.

20.10 Sheave for Fibre Ropes

The fibre ropes are usually circular in cross-section as shown in Fig. 20.6 (*a*). The sheave for the fibre ropes, is shown in Fig. 20.6 (*b*). The groove angle of the pulley for rope drives is usually 45°.



(*a*) Cross-section of a rope. (*b*) Sheave (grooved pulley) for ropes.

Fig. 20.6. Rope and sheave.

The grooves in the pulleys are made narrow at the bottom and the rope is pinched between the edges of the *V*-groove to increase the holding power of the rope on the pulley. The grooves should be finished smooth to avoid chafing of the rope. The diameter of the sheaves should be large to reduce the wear on the rope due to internal friction and bending stresses. The proper size of sheave wheels is 40 d and the minimum size is 36 d, where d is the diameter of rope in cm.

Rope drives

Note : The number of grooves should not be more than 24.

20.11 Ratio of Driving Tensions for Fibre Rope

A fibre rope with a grooved pulley is shown in Fig. 20.6 (*a*). The fibre ropes are designed in the similar way as *V*-belts. We have discussed in Art. 20.5, that the ratio of driving tensions is

$$2.3 \log \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2} \right) = \mu.\theta \operatorname{cosec} \beta$$

where μ, θ and β have usual meanings.