Standing Waves or Stationary Waves.

When two sets of progressive wave trains of same type (both longitudinal or both transverse) having the same amplitude and same time period/frequency/wavelength travelling with same speed along the same straight line in opposite directions superimpose, a new set of waves are formed. These are called stationary waves or standing waves.

Characteristics of standing waves:

(1) The disturbance confined to a particular region between the starting point and reflecting point of the wave.

(2) There is no forward motion of the disturbance from one particle to the adjoining particle and so on, beyond this particular region.

(3) The total energy associated with a stationary wave is twice the energy of each of incident and reflected wave. But there is no flow or transference of energy along the stationary wave.

(4) There are certain points in the medium in a standing wave, which are permanently at rest. These are called nodes. The distance between two consecutive nodes is $\frac{\lambda}{2}$

(5) Points of maximum amplitude is known as antinodes. The distance between two consecutive antinodes is also $\lambda / 2$. The distance between a node and adjoining antinode is $\lambda / 4$.

(6)The medium splits up into a number of segments. Each segment is vibrating up and down as a whole.

(7) All the particles in one particular segment vibrate in the same phase. Particles in two consecutive segments differ in phase by 180°.

(8) All the particles except those at nodes, execute simple harmonic motion about their mean position with the same time period.

(9) The amplitude of vibration of particles varies from zero at nodes to maximum at antinodes.

(10) Twice during each vibration, all the particles of the medium pass simultaneously through their mean position.

(11) The wavelength and time period of stationary waves are the same as for the component waves.

(12) Velocity of particles while crossing mean position varies from maximum at antinodes to zero at nodes.

(13) In standing waves, if amplitude of component waves are not equal. Resultant amplitude at nodes will be minimum (but not zero). Therefore, some energy will pass across nodes and waves will be partially standing.