

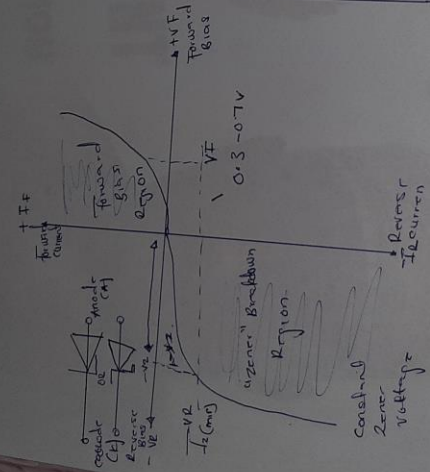
1) current across the diode at full load of  $500\text{mA}$ ,  $I$ .

$$I = \frac{V_z}{R_L}$$

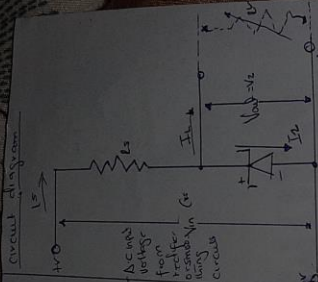
$$I = \frac{10}{500} = 2\text{mA}$$

When a Zener diode is used to produce a stabilized voltage output with respect to varying load conditions. By passing a small current through the Zener diode from the voltage source via a series resistor limiting resistor ( $R_L$ ), the Zener diode will conduct sufficient current to maintain a voltage drop of  $V_{out}$ .

i) I-V characteristic curve



From the I-V characteristics curve above, we can see that the Zener diode has a region in its reverse bias characteristic of almost a constant negative voltage regardless of the value of the current flowing through the diode.



Resistor,  $R_s$ , is connected in series with the Zener diode to limit the current flowing through the diode with the voltage source, it being connected across the combination. Stabilized output voltage  $V_o$  is taken from across the Zener diode.

$$P_{max} = I_{zmax} V_z = 20 \times 10 = 200\text{mW}$$

$$I_{zmax} = 20\text{mA}$$

$$I_{zmax} = \frac{V_z}{R_s}$$

$$\therefore R_s = \frac{V_z}{I_{zmax}} = \frac{10}{0.02} = 500\Omega$$

$$V_z = 10\text{V}$$

i) Minimum value of series resistor is the Zener diode.

$$R_s = \frac{V_s - V_z}{I_z} = \frac{20 - 10}{0.02} = 500\Omega$$