Assembler directives:

Assembler directives help the assembler to correctly understand the assembly language programs to prepare the codes. Another type of hint which helps the assembler to assign a particular constant with a label or initialize particular memory locations or labels with constants is called an operator. Rather, the operators perform the arithmetic and logical tasks unlike directives that just direct the assembler to correctly interpret the program to code it appropriately. The following directives are commonly used in the assembly language programming practice using Microsoft Macro Assembler

(MASM) or Turbo Assembler (TASM).

ü **DB: Define Byte** The DB directive is used to reserve byte or bytes of memory locations in the available memory. While preparing the EXE file, this directive directs the assembler to allocate the specified number of memory bytes to the said data type that may be a constant, variable, string, etc. Another option of this directive also initializes the reserved memory bytes with the ASCII codes of the characters specified as a string. The following examples show how the DB directive is used for different purposes.

Example:

LIST DB 0lH, 02H, 03H, 04H

This statement directs the assembler to reserve four memory locations for a list named LIST and initialize them with the above specified four values