

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3548
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
COIR GEO TEXTILES
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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coir geo-textile has been found useful in rural road construction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this has opened a vast market for the above product and paved way for enhanced utilization of coconut husk;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether coir pith-blocks have also found a unique purpose in the aviation sector and its effectiveness has since been evaluated; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Coir Geotextiles when used on the soft soil for construction of village roads have been found to perform very well as reinforcement, filter, drainage and separation materials in comparison to the conventionally used materials like synthetics, cement, lime, etc. The National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), Government of India has approved Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI) as a nodal institute for application of Coir Geotextiles in construction of rural roads. Indian Roads Congress (IRC), New Delhi has also given the accreditation for the use of Coir Geotextiles in the roads for a period of 2 years with effect from 18.04.2011.

(c)&(d): Research studies have shown that Coir Geotextiles are useful in rural road construction, but they have not been used in a big way till now. Potential of a market for Coir Geotextiles based on rural road construction is there.

(e)&(f): Yes, Madam. For the evaluation of its effectiveness, inter alia a collaborative project has been initiated by the Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI) with National Institute of Technology, Calicut with the in-principle approval of the Airports Authority of India.