

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4162
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
COIR BHOOVA STRA AND GEO TEXTILES
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include coir bhoovastra and coir geo textile materials in the list of approved products in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the specifications maintained by the local/regional/national regulatory authorities concerned with public construction;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to support measures for the mass marketing of the coir geo textiles and coir bhoovastra and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to explore the possibility of having coir bhoovastra and geo textile to be promoted in ordinary civil and structural engineering processes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b) Coir products including coir bhoovastra/coir geo-textiles materials are regulated by the Coir Industry Act, 1953 and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements a number of schemes for development of coir industry in the country. Coir units including those producing coir bhoovastra/coir geotextiles can also be categorized as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) under section 7 of MSME Development Act, 2006 depending upon their investment in plant and machinery.

Coir Board has formulated standards and specifications for coir geo textiles/ coir bhoovastra and published the standards in association with Bureau of Indian Standards. Various Indian Standards for coir bhoovastra are as follows:

- (i) IS 15868:2008 - Natural fibre geo textiles (jute geo textile and coir bhoovastra) - Methods;
- (ii) IS 15869:2008 - Textiles-open weave coir bhoovastra - Specifications;
- (iii) IS 15871:2009 - Use of coir geo textiles (coir bhoovastra) in unpaved roads - Guidelines;
- (iv) IS 12503 (Part 2):1988 - Coir matting, mourzouks and carpets; and
- (v) IS 15872:2009 - Application of coir geotextiles (coir woven bhoovastra) for rain- water erosion.

(c) & (d) Coir Board is actively involved in marketing and promotion of coir geo textiles/ coir bhoovastra through field demonstrations, participation in national and international fairs, conducting workshops/seminars with the active participation of contractors, PWD/CPWD engineers, etc. and formulating standards and specifications for the coir geotextiles/coir bhoovastra in line with geosynthetics coupled with establishment of facilities for testing of quality parameters of coir geotextiles/ coir bhoovastra and extending the facilities to the manufacturers and end users through awareness programs and technical consultancy.

Coir Board has already conducted more than 100 field demonstrations/case studies from 1972 onwards in association with reputed research institutes/ universities such as Central Road Research Institute, Border Roads Organisation, National Institutes of Technology and other institutions in promoting the use of coir geotextiles/coir bhoovastra for prevention of soil erosion and reinforcement of unpaved/ paved roads leading to improved life of the roads. Coir Board has also got accreditation for the use of coir geotextiles/ coir bhoovastra from Indian Roads Congress, New Delhi in the construction of roads and has been identified as a nodal agency to use coir geotextiles/ coir bhoovastra for reinforcement of village roads in 9 States of the country.

Coir Board is also undertaking in-house research investigations for development of binder-less boards from coir geotextiles/coir bhoovastra for its use as a structural material for false ceiling/shutters for doors and windows in building construction. It has also developed an instant soil-less cocolawn containing only coir materials. The Coir Board has actively demonstrated this technology at IIM, Lucknow and has been pursuing to include the usage of coir geotextiles/ coir bhoovastra in manual/schedule of PWD/CPWD engineers.