

National R&D Centre for Geosynthetics

In spite of its good track record in western countries as well as in India too, the geosynthetics could not become popular or utilised on large scale in India due to various reasons. Lack of testing and certifying facilities for geosynthetics is one major reason. Presently in the ongoing National Highway works like NHDP, huge potential for use of geosynthetics exists. About 5 to 10 million square m of geosynthetics were used in India last year, worth about \$20 million. Keeping these points in view, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Empowered Committee on Technical Textiles constituted by Government of India, have recommended setting up of 'Centers of Excellence in Technical Textiles'. These centres would be required to carry out testing and evaluation of geosynthetics, having State of the art facilities, carrying out R&D activities in this area and training field engineers on related aspects.

Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has carried out pioneering work in the field of use of geosynthetics. Certain facilities for evaluating geotextiles are already available at CRRI (Photo 1 & 2). Keeping in view the experience and know-how in this field, establishment of 'National R&D Centre for Geosynthetics' at CRRI would go in a long way towards providing better roads to Indian Public.



Photo1 - Cone Penetration Test Apparatus



Photo2. Tensile strength Test Apparatus

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