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Title : Atira to help build durable roads in northeast states

Author : PiyushMishra

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PiyushMishra@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: Every year, several roads are washed away in the northeastern states due to heavy rains and landslides damage properties worth crores besides killing people. To contain this, city-based Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (Atira) will help northeast state governments develop safe, durable, low-cost and effective infrastructure in fragile geological conditions in the region using geotechnical textiles.

The ministry of textiles in March this year had launched 'Scheme for promoting usage of geotechnical textiles in north eastern region'.

While the office of textile commissioner has been appointed nodal agency for the scheme, the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Geotextiles at Atira is one of the major technical authorities involved in the implementation of the scheme.

Besides building roads, geotechnical textiles will also be used to construct hill slope protection and reservoir linings. "Traditional civil engineering solutions for construction of hill roads in these landslide prone and sinking terrains have not been very successful in retaining the infrastructure for a longer duration," said R M Sankar, principal scientific officer, Atira.

Geotextiles or geotechnical



Participants at a workshop on the Atira campus on Thursday

Projects worth ₹6,000 crore

As per estimates, the Centre is targeting projects worth Rs 6,000 crore under the scheme. The Manipur government has already shortlisted 10 projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. "Representatives of six NE states were present at the workshop," said Mohammad Safikur Rahman, assistant director, Atira.

textiles are permeable fabrics which, when used with soil, have the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect and drain.

Atira will be the authority on designing of the projects. It has identified 56 demonstration sites where it will develop roads using geotechnical textiles and 20 sites for reservoir linings at a cost of around Rs 80 crore.

An interactive workshop on 'Application of Geotechnical Textiles in Various Construc-

Geotextile market worth ₹272 crore

The geotextiles market in India is worth Rs 272 crore, including imports worth around Rs 105 crore and domestic production of around Rs 167 crore. There are around 20 geotextile manufacturers in the country, based out of Gujarat and Maharashtra. These include MNCs.

tions in the NE region of India' was organized on the Atira campus on Thursday. Speaking on the sidelines of the workshop, Anu Garg, joint secretary, ministry of textiles, said, "Our aim is to see participation of every state government. We want to use the new technology for durable infrastructure and our focus is on NE region."

Atira director A K Sharma said, "We are entering into nation building with this project.