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सहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्रालय  
सहरी विकास विभाग  
Government of India  
Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment  
Department of Urban Development

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Dear

Normal repair/laying of utility services such as underground sewers, waterlines, telephone cables etc. using the conventional open cut method causes grave hardship to the commuters due to disruption of traffic, dust/noise pollution, damage to adjoining utilities etc. Trenchless Technology is an innovative method of installing/renovating the underground utility services without digging of the ground above. With the growing awareness about the problems being faced in the open trench method, developed countries have banned the open trench digging and are changing over to the trenchless technology, i.e. "No Dig" methods.

2. The liberalisation of the Indian economy has opened new business opportunities for application of such Trenchless Technologies in India. As you know, India, with the world's second largest population is, now, on the brink of saturation. Despite the best endeavours of the Government to provide necessary basic amenities such as sanitation, urban transportation, potable water etc., the existing systems are struggling to cater to timely relief for such a large number of people.

3. The Metro cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore etc. have already overgrown their master plan limits. Under such circumstances "Trenchless Technology" has proved to be a boon that can provide solutions for the country's massive urban problems where conventional open cut methods would be untenable. Though the Indian market is in its infancy as far as adoption of this trenchless technology is concerned, there is a huge market potential to be tapped.

4. I am glad to inform you that the Government of India has already taken steps forward in this direction by appointing National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC), a public sector undertaking under this Ministry, as a nodal agency for the promotion of the trenchless technology in this country. Also


Technical Committee on Trenchless Technology was constituted for studying the feasibility of the adoption of this technology under Indian conditions. The Technical Committee has formulated the National Guidelines for trenchless technology.

5. NBCC has set up a Trenchless Technology Development Centre in its Corporate office at New Delhi. A fulfilled library facility is available for those who are interested in knowing about this new technology. NBCC has also initiated live demonstrations of this technology in Delhi & Mumbai and they are acquiring more equipments to undertake such works on a mass scale in the country. Also seminars & conferences are going to be organised in all the major cities to disseminate this knowledge amongst the engineering professionals and other public authorities to spread awareness and appreciation of this technology to the users.

6. At this stage, what is needed from our side is an unwavering commitment to sow the seeds of this new technology in our country. I, therefore, request you to take personal interest and try to adopt trenchless technology for laying of underground utilities in congested areas where the conventional open cut methods would prove to be nuisance and costly in the long run. Your continued co-operation and support in this venture would be of great help in making this technology popular. For further details, if any, you may kindly contact the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NBCC, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(B.S.Minhas)

g/c