

Contents

List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiii
Preface	xxi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Source of Alkali Contamination	2
1.3 Field Incidents of Alkali Contamination	3
1.4 Impact of Alkali Contamination	5
1.5 Mitigation Techniques	7
1.6 Motivation of Study	8
1.7 Research Objectives	9
1.8 Thesis Outline	9
2 Literature Review	11
2.1 General	11
2.2 Alkali-Induced Heaving	11
2.3 Mineralogical Alterations in Alkali Interacted Soil	13
2.4 Geotechnical Properties of Alkali Interacted Soil	15
2.5 Heaving Suppression Technique	16
2.5.1 Application of Salt Solutions	16
2.5.2 Application of Waste Materials	17
2.6 Soil Stabilisation Technique	18
2.6.1 Mechanical Stabilisation	19

2.6.2	Chemical Stabilisation	20
2.6.2.1	Stabilisation using Ground Granulated Blast-Furnace Slag (GGBFS)	21
2.6.2.2	Stabilization using Alccofine	24
2.6.2.3	Stabilization using other Inorganic Chemicals	27
2.7	Stabilization of Soil using Bio-Chemicals	30
2.8	Electrokinetic (EK) Technique	33
2.9	Summary	51
3	Materials and Methods	53
3.1	General	53
3.2	Material Selection	53
3.2.1	Soil	53
3.2.2	Geotechnical Tests	54
3.2.2.1	Particle Size Distribution	54
3.2.2.2	Atterberg Limits	55
3.2.2.3	Specific Gravity	55
3.2.2.4	Compaction Characteristics	56
3.2.2.5	Unconfined Compressive Strength	56
3.2.2.6	Triaxial Test	57
3.2.3	Ground Granulated Blast-Furnace Slag (GGBFS)	58
3.2.4	Alccofine	59
3.2.5	Chemical Stabilizer	61
3.2.5.1	Enzyme-Induced Carbonate Precipitation (EICP)	61
3.2.5.2	Sodium Silicate	62
3.2.5.3	Sodium Carbonate	63
3.2.5.4	Calcium Chloride	64
3.2.6	Alkali Solution	64
3.2.7	Sample Preparation	64
3.2.8	Mineralogical Studies	65
3.2.9	Morphological Studies	65
3.2.10	Electrokinetic Model Set-up	66

3.2.10.1	Rectangular Model Tank Equipped with ElectroKinetics	66
3.2.10.2	Circular Model Tank Equipped with ElectroKinetics	67
3.2.10.3	Electrodes used in Large Scale Models	69
3.2.10.4	Bench Scale ElectroKinetic Model	72
3.2.10.5	Electrodes used in Bench Scale Model	72
3.2.10.6	Voltage Sensors	73
3.2.10.7	DC Supplier	74
3.2.10.8	Motorized Stirrer	74
3.3	Research Methodology Adopted	74
3.4	Summary	77
4	Assessment of Alkali-Induced Heaving through Electrokinetics	79
4.1	General	79
4.2	Effect of Alkali Concentration on Soil	80
4.2.1	Particle Size Analysis	80
4.2.2	Atterberg Limits	80
4.2.3	Specific Gravity	81
4.2.4	Compaction Characterstics	82
4.2.5	Heaving Analysis	82
4.2.6	Heaving Pressure	84
4.2.7	Unconfined Compressive Strength	85
4.2.8	Shear Strength Parameters	86
4.2.9	Zeta Potential	86
4.2.10	Dielectric Constant	87
4.2.11	X-ray fluorescence analysis	87
4.2.12	Mineralogical Analysis	89
4.2.13	Micro Structural Analysis	90
4.3	Alkali-Induced Soil Heaving in Large Scale Model through Electrokinetics	91
4.3.1	Rectangular Model Equipped with Electrokinetics	93
4.3.2	Circular Model Equipped with Electrokinetics	93
4.3.3	Sample Preparation	93
4.3.4	Electrokinetic Mechanism	94

4.3.5	Comparison of Rectangular and Circular Model Equipped with EK	95
4.3.5.1	Surface Heaving	95
4.3.5.2	Heaving Pressure in Large Scale Models	98
4.3.5.3	Variation of Electric Potential	98
4.3.5.4	Variation of Temperature	100
4.3.5.5	Variation of EO Flow	101
4.3.5.6	Unconfined Compressive Strength	101
4.3.5.7	Shear Strength Parameters	104
4.4	Summary	107
5	Stabilization using Industrial Waste Materials	109
5.1	General	109
5.2	Specimen Preparation	110
5.3	Experimental Results and Discussion	111
5.3.1	Particle Size Analysis	112
5.3.2	Atterberg Limits	112
5.3.3	Specific Gravity	114
5.3.4	Compaction Characteristics	116
5.3.5	Heaving Analysis	120
5.3.6	Unconfined Compressive Strength	122
5.3.7	Shear Strength Parameters	126
5.3.8	Mineralogical Studies	130
5.3.9	Microstructural studies	131
5.4	Bench Scale Study through Electrokinetics	134
5.4.1	Alkali Interacted Soil	134
5.4.2	Model Chamber	134
5.4.3	Sample Preparation for Bench-Scale Model Study	134
5.4.4	Experimental Results of the Electrokinetic Bench-Scale Study	135
5.4.4.1	Variation in Voltage During EK Test	135
5.4.4.2	Variation in pH of Electrolytic Solution During EK Test	135
5.4.4.3	Variation in Electroosmotic Flow During EK Test	138
5.4.4.4	Unconfined Compressive Strength Studies	138

5.5	Summary	140
6	Chemical Stabilization using Bench Scale Model through Electrokinetics	143
6.1	General	143
6.2	Test Procedure and Conditions	144
6.2.1	Test Procedure and Conditions	144
6.2.2	Electrokinetic Mechanism and Procedure	146
6.2.3	Quantification of Precipitated Calcite (Acid Leaching test)	147
6.3	Monitoring of Data During EK Test	148
6.3.1	Variation of pH of Electrolytes and Soil	149
6.3.2	Variation in Electric Potential	153
6.3.3	Variation in Electroosmotic Flow During EK Process	157
6.4	Results of Geotechnical Testing After EK Treatment	159
6.4.1	Variation of Atterberg Limits of Post EK Treated Soil	159
6.4.2	Variation in Unconfined Compressive Strength of Alkali Interacted Soil after EK Treatment	164
6.4.3	Variation in Shear Strength Parameters of Alkali Interacted Soil after EK Treatment	168
6.4.4	Variation in Coefficient of Compression of Alkali Interacted Soil after EK Treatment	173
6.4.5	Heaving Analysis on Soil Stabilised with Chemicals	176
6.4.6	Effect of EK Treatment with Chemicals on Mineral Composition of Alkali Interacted Soil	179
6.4.7	Microstructural Study of Alkali Interacted Soil after EK Treatment with Different Chemicals	183
6.5	Summary	185
7	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE SCOPE	187
7.1	Summary and Conclusion	187
7.2	Limitations and Scope for Future Work	191
7.2.1	Limitations	191
7.2.2	Scope for Future Work	191

