

Call for duty-free import of kraft paper

Our Bureau

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The corrugated paper box manufacturers have urged the Union Government to allow import of kraft paper free of customs duty to tide over the present crisis caused by unprecedented increase in the prices of kraft paper.

In a statement, Mr Hemant Saraogi, President of Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association, has pointed out that the domestic manufacturers of kraft paper hiked the price by Rs 3,000-4,000 per tonne in past two months. Kraft paper is a major input used in the manufacture of corrugated boxes.

The prices of other inputs too, it is pointed out, have jumped substantially.

The price of starch more than doubled and the price of stitching wire jumped by 40 per cent in past one year. Unless the prices of corrugated boxes are allowed to increase at least by 20 per cent, the box manufacturers, mostly in the small-scale sector, would be forced to close down their units, it is feared.

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