

Packaging units on strike from March 8

SOLAN: Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association of Punjab and Himachal will go on a seven-day strike from March 8. The packaging units are protesting against the hike in price of raw material leading to losses.

There are nearly 200 packaging units in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh belt and most have been established on bank loans.

The decision to stop production was taken at a meeting of association representatives from

Punjab, J&K, Haryana, HP, UP, Delhi, Chandigarh and Uttrakhand at Baddi on Saturday. The association also threatened to go on a nationwide agitation. It will also hold a rally and submit a memorandum to Commerce Minister Anand Sharma in Delhi on March 3.

"The cost of paper has risen by 20 per cent in two months, affecting units across the state," said association state president Surender Jain.

Jain said the rise in the prices of petroleum products and raw materials had forced to them suspend production and supply.

"The price rise has raised prices of items like stitching wire by nearly 250 per cent in a few months," he said.

"We do not intend to create hurdles in industrial development but if the government does not intervene, thousands of workers may become jobless due to the closure of units."

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