

Duty-free imports on paper sought

R R Goswami

AHMEDABAD

CITING shortage of country kraft paper, the Rs 4,000-crore corrugated box manufacturers have sought waiver of the import duty on the raw material. Kraft paper is the main raw material and the industry consumes nearly 70% kraft paper produced in the country. The industry was hit as kraft paper makers revised their prices by 25%.

The 10,000 units engaged in corrugated box manufacturing offer direct jobs to 3 lakh persons across the coun-

try. The Indian Corrugated Case Manufacturers Association (ICCMA) has pointed out that adhesive (starch) another raw material too has witnessed a steep hike of 40%, apart from the stitching wire that too saw escalation in its prices.

ICCMA president Kirit Modi says there is a worldwide shortage of the fibres that go into making of kraft paper due to the closure of pulp mills in Chile due to the recent earthquake. The severe winter and snow in the North America too has put a lot of pressure on the availability of waste paper.