

## BUDGET WISH LIST

# Assocham seeks 10% customs duty on pulp imports to boost jobs

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@ New Delhi

Industry body Assocham on Tuesday urged the government to impose a 10 per cent customs duty on import of hardwood chemical pulp and bleached chemi-thermo mechanical pulp to encourage domestic pulp production. It said such a move will provide the much-needed push for job creation and promote overall economic development of the

dations on indirect taxes submitted to the government.

According to estimates, India imports 1.25 metric tonnes of pulp worth \$710 million annually.

Assocham has also sought policy measures for private sector participation in plantation development programmes. The chamber recommended that import of capital goods required by paper and paperboard industry for technological upgradation, aimed at environmental protection and for compliance with corporate responsibility for environmental protection, be permitted at 'nil' rate of customs duty.

"One of the fetters to the growth of country's economy is lack of adequate opportunities for harnessing and deploying unique demographic dividend that India enjoys vis-a-vis other economies," said Assocham secretary-general, D S Rawat.

"Development of plantation farming to produce raw materials for paper and paperboards industry is a readily available avenue for creating substantial employment opportunities on a sustainable basis," he added.

The chamber has also suggested that exports by manufacturers who have adopted environment friendly technology be granted incentives as cash incentive of five per cent of free on board.



One of the fetters to the growth of country's economy is lack of adequate opportunities for harnessing demographic dividend

D S Rawat

country's vast rural hinterland housing pulpwood plantations. "These measures would help energise creation of sustainable sources of fibre required by Indian pulp and paper industry," it said in its pre-Budget recommen-

**Import duty sought on chemical pulp**

Hyderabad, January 16

Industry body Assocham on Tuesday urged the Centre to impose 10 per cent customs duty on import of hardwood chemical pulp and bleached chemi-thermo mechanical pulp (BCTMP) to encourage domestic pulp production. According to a statement by the body, the move will help create jobs and promote overall economic development of the country's vast rural hinterland housing pulpwood plantations. "These measures would help energise creation of sustainable sources of fibre required by the Indian pulp and paper industry," Assocham said. PTI



# Assocham seeks 10 per cent import duty on chemical pulp

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Mumbai

Industry body Assocham urged the Centre to impose 10 per cent customs duty on import of hardwood chemical pulp and bleached chemi-thermo mechanical pulp (BCTMP) to encourage domestic pulp production. This is part of ASSOCHAM pre-budget recommendations on indirect taxes submitted with the Union Government.

According to a statement by the body, the move will help create jobs and promote overall economic development of the country's vast rural hinterland housing pulpwood plantations. "These measures would help energise creation of sustainable sources of fibre required by the Indian pulp and paper industry," Assocham said, reports PTL.

The industry body has asked for policy measures to facilitate private sector participation in plantation development programmes. Besides, the chamber has recommended that import of capital goods required by the paper and paperboard industry for technological up-gradation, especially aimed at environmental protection and for compliance with the Corporate Responsibility for

**MORE than 1.25 million MMT of pulp, approximately valued at USD 710 mn is imported into India each year.**

Environmental Protection (CREP), be permitted at 'nil' rate of customs duty.

It has suggested that exports by manufactures, who have adopted environment-friendly technology, be granted additional incentives such as cash incentive of 5 per cent of free on board (FOB) value. It is estimated that more than 1.25 million metric tonnes (MMT) of pulp, approximately valued at USD 710 million (about Rs 4,600 crore), is imported into India each year.

Assocham Secretary General D S Rawat said instead of generating sizeable employment opportunities within the country, millions of jobs are being exported to the nations from where pulp is imported.

The Assocham justified customs duty exemption on import of softwood pulp, saying it cannot be grown in India and thus its requirement will have to be met through shipments from abroad.

## Assocham seeks 10% customs duty on pulp imports in Budget

**NEW DELHI:** Industry chamber Assocham has urged the Centre to impose 10 per cent customs duty on import of hardwood chemical pulp and bleached chemi-thermo mechanical pulp to encourage domestic production. "The move will provide fillip to job creation and promote overall economic development of India's vast

rural hinterland housing pulpwood plantations," the industry chamber said in a statement on Tuesday.

"These measures would help energise creation of sustainable sources of fibre required by Indian pulp and paper industry," the industry body said in its pre-budget recommendations on indirect taxes submitted with the government. *IANS*