

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1652
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIAL TO THE PAPER MILLS
Purkayastha Shri Kabindra

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether paper mills being run in Barak Valley are suffering production for want of bamboos, the main raw material for making paper despite the fact that there is huge availability of bamboos in the adjacent areas of Mizoram; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of closed mills for want of Bamboos and the steps taken by the Government to save the Paper Mills in that area?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) &(b):There is only one paper mill in Barak Valley, viz., Cachar Paper Mill, one of the two units of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited. The mill operated at a capacity of 65% in 2008-2009 and is operating at 50% capacity in the current year due to shortage in the supply of bamboo. There is a problem in the availability of pulp quality bamboo in Barak Valley mainly because of gregarious flowering of Muli bamboo in North Cachar hills. About 70 - 80% of bamboo available in the adjacent area of Mizoram is also Muli bamboo, which again is affected by flowering. The other reasons for poor availability of bamboo are insurgency, poor rail infrastructure, frequent landslides, floods etc. The Mill authorities have taken several steps to improve the situation which include procurement of home grown bamboo and pulp wood, use of recycled fibre, purchase of indigenous pulp from Andhra Pradesh, import of pulp from Indonesia, supply of bamboo from lower Assam through river route across Bangladesh, etc.