

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to revive Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon Paper Mill in Assam.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the worst condition of Cachar Paper Mill & Nagaon Paper Mill and its employees in Assam. These paper mills were established by the Govt. of India with a view to increase industrialization of the State and provide sustainable livelihood to the people of the State of Assam. These Mills, for decades, were running smoothly. But on account of the slackness of the management, with some alleged corrupt officials ruling the roost, the Mills started suffering losses and gradually the Mills turned into sick industries. Both the Mills own hundreds of acres of land and other infrastructure, such as staff quarters, Kendriya Vidyalaya, workers welfare centres and more than thousand employees and workmen. Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon Paper Mill were made inoperative causing unemployment to atleast two lakh people of the backward areas who were dependent on the Mills. The bamboo growers & suppliers of the rural areas of adjoining district/region have been severely affected, in other words, rural economy of the industrially backward State like Assam collapsed and large employment opportunities jeopardized.

I urge the Government to consider very seriously and take immediate action to meet the shortfall of more than one million tonnes of paper requirement per annum, by setting up new paper industries in country and also to take necessary steps for revival of already established Paper Mills like Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon paper Mill in Assam.