

Paper biz staring at negative growth

THE ₹75,000-CRORE PAPER industry, which has resumed production after relaxations were issued effective from April 15, may have a negative growth in the first quarter of this fiscal as demand lost in this lockdown cannot be compensated entirely. However, the industry is hopeful of around 6% growth in the subsequent nine months.

"To some extent it will be compensated, as we cannot

make up entire production if it was down for 30 days. Before lockdown, the industry was operating at an average 90-95%, some even more than 100%," said A S Mehta, president of the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA). Any recovery, however, will depend on opening up of shops and normalisation of transport, said Mehta, who is also president & director of JK Paper.

— FE BUREAU