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India allows rice export to Bhutan, Mauritius

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NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday permitted exports of limited quantities of non-basmati white rice to Bhutan, Mauritius and Singapore, according to a notification by Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

Bhutan will get 79,000 tonnes, Mauritius 14,000 tonnes and Singapore 50,000 tonnes, even as the export ban imposed on July 20 remains in place.

The export will be done through National Cooperative Exports Ltd, a government export body which was set up under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 to export agriculture produce and allied items.

"Though monsoon has been deficient during August, Indian government agreed to allow export to the needy countries totally on humanitarian ground. It will surely benefit exporters but will further add to food inflation in India, considering less than normal expected production of kharif crop," said Suraj Agarwal, chief executive office of Rice Villa brand.

Mint on August 23 first reported in an exception for two key diplomatic partners, India will supply 14,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice this year to Mauritius and 79,000 tonnes to Bhutan under humanitarian operations.

On August 20, it had reported Singapore had asked for around 110,000 tonnes of rice.

Mint on August 1 reported cargos and containers full of rice



Bhutan to receive 79,000 tonnes, Mauritius 14,000 tonnes and Singapore 50,000 tonnes from India.

REUTERS

were lying at Indian ports, unshipped after the government announced export restrictions.

Tuesday's decision brought relief to several exporters as well as ship chartering agencies.

"We are thankful to the government of India for this much awaited notification giving relief to rice exporters. This will help in clearance of loading in our breakbulk ships at Kandla port," Raajesh Bhojwani, said co-founder and managing director of RSCPL (IFSC) Pvt Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of Singapore-based RBB Ship Chartering Pte Ltd.

The firm's three vessels containing around 110,000 tonnes of rice are berthed at Kandla port in Gujarat. Retail inflation in rice rose to 12.96% in July from 12% in June and 4.3% in July 2022.

Amid a surge in retail inflation to a 15-month high, India has taken various measures, including export curbs, to control escalating food prices.

"To ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the Indian market and to allay the rise in prices in the domestic market, the government of India has amended the export policy from 'free with export duty of 20%' to 'prohibited' with immediate effect," the government announced on July 20, clogging ports with the grain.

On August 29, the government issued a new notification allowing exports of non-basmati rice consignments that had been handed over to the customs before 21:57:01 hours on July 20 and been registered in custom systems.

It also allowed other consignments with similar caveats.

The period of exports will be up to October 30 this year.

In his Independence Day speech to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to bring down inflation as he readies to fight general elections, due by May, for a third term in office.



India clears non-Basmati rice exports to Bhutan, Mauritius, Singapore

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