

Govt lifts all curbs on rice exports, barring brokenens

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The Union government on Wednesday removed all curbs on rice exports that have been in force since September 2022. However, it has retained the ban on exports of broken rice.

Within hours of lowering the Customs duty on parboiled rice to zero from 10 per cent, it scrapped the \$490 per tonne minimum export price (MEP) on white rice.

On October 18, *business-line* reported that the Government had decided to ease export curbs on rice further following a decision at a high-level inter-ministerial



OPENING UP. The government has scrapped the 10% export duty on parboiled rice and the \$490 floor price for white rice

meeting. "We welcome the government's decision to remove the curbs on export of white and parboiled rice. This will benefit exporters to get additional 1% RoDTEP, drawback and GST refunds, which we were not able to

avail of during the ban. This will boost exports and shipments will top 22 million tonnes by March 2025," said Rajesh Paharia Jain, a New Delhi-based exporter.

M Madan Prakash, President of Agricultural Com-

modities Exporters Association, welcomed the decision, saying it was a big relief.

EVACUATING STOCKS

The move is also seen as a way to ease the problem of warehouses in Haryana and Punjab overflowing with rice stocks. Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi told the media on Wednesday that the Centre has accorded top priority to evacuate the stocks from these States.

The Commerce Minister, in a notification on Wednesday, said the requirement of MEP has been lifted with immediate effect. Late on Tuesday, the Finance Ministry lowered Custom Duty to NIL from 10 per cent on parboiled rice, husked (brown)

rice and rice in the husk (paddy). It has been made effective from October 22.

The decisions have been taken at a time when a model code of conduct is in place because of polling in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

This is the second move to ease exports within a month. Earlier on September 26, the Ministry cut the export duty on non-basmati parboiled rice, husked (brown) rice and rice in the husk to 10 per cent from 20 per cent with immediate effect. Also, semi-milled or wholly-milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed (other than parboiled rice and Basmati rice) allowed duty-free.

It, however, fixed a MEP of \$490/tonne on white rice exports.