

Decision on more sugar, non-basmati rice exports today

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Feb. 6

An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) will decide tomorrow on allowing further export of sugar and non-basmati rice as well as reviewing the onion and edible oil export situation.

About eight issues related to Food and Commerce Ministries will be discussed at the meeting of the EGoM on Food, headed by the Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, sources said.

They said the Food Ministry has proposed additional export of one million tonnes of sugar in the 2011-12 marketing year (October-September) to improve liquidity and help mills make timely payment to growers.

The sugar industry has been demanding exports of an addi-

tional two million tonnes (mt) for this year. The Government has permitted the export of one mt this season in view of higher domestic production. The Food Ministry has so far issued export permits for about 8,53,000 tonnes.

Apart from sugar exports, the EGoM will also decide on allowing enhancing the export cap of non-basmati rice up to four mt due to high stocks following a good crop, sources said.

So far, 2.3 mt has been shipped since the Government lifted the ban on the commodity in September last year.

Sources further said the Food Ministry has also endorsed the proposal of Commerce Ministry to either reduce or scrap the minimum export price (MEP) of basmati rice and onion.