

# Restrictions likely on Sugar Exports

To help check prices, ensure local supply

**Our Bureau**

**New Delhi:** India, the world's largest sugar producer, is considering restrictions on exports of the commodity, following similar moves on wheat, rice, and onions. The step is aimed at keeping a check on local prices and ensuring adequate supplies in the country.

People familiar with the matter said the department of consumer affairs has backed export restrictions on the sweetener.

"There could be restrictions or a very limited quota may be permitted for outbound shipments," an official said, asking not to be named.

The final decision on continuing sugar exports during the upcoming sugar season, which starts from October 1, will be taken after mid-October, another official said.

The last time India imposed a 20% tax on sugar exports to curb overseas sales was in 2016.

India's retail inflation in August stood at 6.83% while food inflation eased to 9.94% from 11.51% in July.

Sugar prices are continuing to trend higher despite an increased quota for August and September amid reports of crop damage due to scanty rainfall in August. Rainfall was 36% below normal last month with main producer states

## Rein in Prices

**Govt keen to keep prices of kitchen essentials in check**

**Restrictions or very limited quota on sugar exports likely after Oct**

**Crop damage, lower production push up sugar prices**

**6 mt exports allowed in sugar season 2022-23 vs 11 mt in previous yr**



such as Maharashtra witnessing extreme dryness in certain areas.

India's sugar production may decline 3.3% to 31.7 million tonnes in the 2023-24 season.

Unhappy with the rising sugar prices, the Union government has issued mandatory stock disclosure orders for all stakeholders of the sugar industry and released an additional 1.3 mt of sugar for September, taking the quota for the month to 3.8 million tonnes. This followed assurances from both the government and industry that there are enough sugar stocks for this year and that there would be no scarcity next year as well.