

Govt imposes ban on atta export to check domestic prices

New Delhi: The government on Saturday banned the export of wheat or meslin flour (atta) and other processed items made from wheat such as maida, samolina (rava/ sirgi), wholemeal atta and resultant atta. According to a notification by the director general of foreign trade (DGFT), these have been put in the “prohibited category”. Their export will be allowed only after the government gives permission.

The notification was issued two days after the Union Cabinet approved change to a decision of 2013 to enable the DGFT to put the ban on processed food items made from wheat.

The retail prices of atta have gone up to Rs 35.6 per kg compared to Rs 30.3 per kg a year back, which is a 17% increase. Similarly, the wholesale prices have increased to Rs 3,027 per quintal compared to Rs 2,494 last year — an increase of 21%. This is primarily attributed to the spike in export of atta since the government banned the export on wheat due to fall in domestic production. **TNN**