

Raw rice exports 'under-invoiced'

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DUTY WOES.

Some importers claim Customs officials' calculations forced them to pay nearly 30% duty

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Indian rice exporters are allegedly under-invoicing their white (raw) rice shipments to overcome the 20 per cent export duty imposed by the Government from September 9.

However, a section of the exporters say the duty worked out by the Customs authorities works to nearly 30 per cent and hence, shippers are making adjustments for that.

"There are various ways in which the under-invoicing is taking place. It is being done in the case of assorted and a batch of containers," said a trading source. Exporters and traders spoke to *businessline* without wishing to identify in view of the sensitivity of the issue.

'NOT A MAJOR SCANDAL'

A Mumbai-based exporter said: "We are actually charged



LOSING STEAM. The under-invoicing was happening mainly in the case of premium white rice varieties such as BPT 5024, Sona Masuri Kolam and RNR

ing mainly in the case of premium white rice varieties such as BPT 5024, Sona Masuri Kolam and RNR.

"These are premium varieties which were fetching \$550-650 a tonne before the duty was imposed. After the duty, the price should have gone up by \$70-90 but prices remain the same," the source pointed out.

"In the case of the Sona rice variety, prices almost touched ₹30 a kg before dropping to around ₹22 now. But the drop is not reflected in the export price," the source said.

However, in some cases, exporters are managing the duty from the margins they get. Shipments are being cleared fast in Mumbai, Kolkata and Mundra ports, while being slow in Chennai and Thoothukudi.

Exporters were unanimous that the Centre will have to think of some other way to curb such activities.

almost all destinations. "It is more for consignments to the Gulf and Singapore," the source said.

"There are similar under-invoicing for shipments to Sri Lanka. We were offered an opportunity but we rejected it," said a Chennai-based exporter.

An exporter from the East Coast said there are possibilities

30 per cent export duty when we quote the cost and freight (C&F) price in our invoice. Customs authorities detect the freight charges and then work the duty. We include the 20 per cent duty too in the invoice but Customs have their own way of calculation."

The trading source said the under-invoicing is happening with white rice shipments to

ies of under-invoicing though he has not come across any such development. "It is not a major scandal. It is likely to happen here and there. Under-invoicing is possible when the export duty is 20 per cent," the exporter said.

CASE OF PREMIUM RICE

The trading source said the under-invoicing was happen-

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Rising imports of cheaper pepper hit local spice

V Sajeed Kumar
Kochi

Increased arrivals of imported pepper from other producing countries are allegedly hitting the prospects of domestically produced commodities due to its doorstep availability at lower prices in consuming markets.

Traders pointed out that pepper rates in producing countries have started declining and are hovering in the range of \$2,500-2,600/tonne in Brazil, \$3,000 in Vietnam, and \$5,000 in Sri Lanka. Of this, Brazilian and Vietnamese varieties are finding markets in India under mis-declaration either as cotton waste or paper waste, they alleged.

This imported stuff is available in all the consuming markets in the country at ₹490-495, while Indian prices are at



₹490. With GST and freight rates, it would come to around ₹515.

DIWALI DEMAND

Kishore Shamji, President, Indian Pepper and Spice Traders Association (IPSTA) said domestic pepper prices are holding up because of festival demand in upcountry markets and are on the rise ahead of the Diwali season, especially from masala manufacturers.

Govt allows duty-free broken rice export

PROVIDING RELIEF. Valid till March 31, shipments of 3.97 lakh tonnes will be allowed for exporters who opened LCs before Sept 8

Commerce Ministry to allow nearly four lt of fully broken rice for which LCs had been opened but were stranded at ports or during transit.

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The Government has decided to permit duty-free exports of fully broken rice consignments for which letters of credit (LCs) were opened before September 8, when it banned its shipments. The measure follows representations from exporters and traders.

In a notification issued late on Wednesday evening, the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade said 3.97 lakh tonnes (lt) of fully broken rice will be allowed for exports till the end of the current fiscal.

Exporters, in particular, led by The Rice Exporters Association had written to the

MOVE LAUDED

"This is a welcome relief for the entire rice exporting community. In particular, African countries that depend on Indian broken rice will be thankful to the Centre.

"Not just that, a lot of consignments would have been wasted had this order not come," said New Delhi-based exporter Rajesh Paharia Jain.

In his letter to the Commerce Ministry, TREA President BV Krishna Rao urged that duty-free exports of about four lt of fully broken rice be allowed, for which



QUICK DESPATCH. Broken rice is mainly consumed by China, Vietnam and Senegal

LCs had been opened well before September 9 when the ban came into force. Apart from banning broken rice, the Government imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-basmati white rice.

The latest notification has been welcomed by the trade

in general with M. Madan Prakash, President, Agri Commodities Exporters Association, terming the development as "great news".

The DGFT said 3,97,627 tonnes of fully broken rice would be permitted for exports and it will be applicable

for only LCs opened before September 8, when the curbs on rice exports were announced.

It said the date of the message between the Indian or foreign bank and SWIFT date should also be before September 8.

The volume that will be allowed to be shipped will be distributed amongst applicants who had opened LCs before September 8, the notification said.

REASONS FOR CURBS

India came up with curbs on rice exports after the sowing of paddy in the kharif season dropped by about 5 per cent this year as deficient rains affected the cereal's coverage.

Besides, rice and paddy stocks with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) dropped to a three-year low.

Broken rice is mainly consumed by China, Vietnam and Senegal. China uses broken rice for noodles manufacturing and animal feed, while Vietnam uses it for noodles and wine-making.

Steel exports dip 54% to 3.6 mt in April-Sept

Abhishek Law

New Delhi

India's steel exports dipped by nearly 54 per cent to 3.6 million tonne (mt) in the first half of the fiscal (April to September).

The decline was caused by global recessionary trends affecting demand and the continued imposition of export duty by the Centre, making offerings pricier compared with competing countries.

Exports in April-September of FY21 was 7.8 mt; exports in September, at 0.6 mt, were down over 57 per cent y-o-y as per provisional data of the Steel Ministry accessed by *business-line*. Finished steel exports include non-alloyed, alloyed and stainless steel offerings.

July was the worst month when imports were higher than exports.

NON-ALLOYED STEEL HIT

Non-alloyed steel offerings — the prime export item and the category hit hardest by the duty levy — fell 68.6 per cent to 2.3 mt from 7.2 mt in the year-ago period.

The category continues to remain under stress with September demand witnessing an 11 per cent month-on-month decline to



POOR DEMAND. July was the worst month with imports surpassing exports

0.1 mt (from 0.11 mt) and 92 per cent decline y-o-y. Non-alloyed steel exports were at 1.22 mt in September 2021.

"Stress in demand continues as is evident from a continued slowdown in non-alloyed steel demand for September. The category continues to be hit," a steel mill owner said.

EXPORT NUMBERS

According to Ministry data, finished steel exports grew 27 per cent in September over August (0.6 mt versus 0.45 mt). But numbers were driven by alloyed and stainless steel offerings.

Alloyed and stainless steel exports saw a 39.6 per cent rise month-on-month (September versus August) to 0.5 mt (from 0.34 mt); and 263 per cent increase y-o-y (from 0.131 mt).

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'US export curbs on China will hit India's auto industry only in Q4'

Aroosa Ahmed

Mumbai

The Indian automobile industry will not be impacted by the semiconductor shortage immediately, after leading chip tool manufacturers suspended sales to semiconductor manufacturers in China last week, say experts.

The new US export controls mean that state companies in the US will be restricted from exporting machinery and raw materials to Chinese companies that manufacture chips and semiconductors.

These companies will require licences to export high-performance chips.

HIGH INVENTORY

With the present spike in domestic demand for automobiles, experts say there will be no problem with semiconductor constraints as original equipment manufacturers (OEM) have stocked a higher inventory of chips.

"As global passenger vehicle demand is muted and



SAVING THE DAY. Experts say chip constraints are not a problem as of now as OEMs have adequate stock. REUTERS

India is a small part of the overall industry, it has helped us manage the situation better," said Hemal Thakkar, Director, Consulting-Transport, Logistics and Mobility, CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics.

THE PROBLEM IN Q4

If the export controls continue through the next quarter with a rise in auto demand, chip shortage will impact India's auto market in the fourth quarter. "The geopolit-

ical scenario is to be watched carefully as raw material base and semiconductor manufacturing bases are different, and interlinkages are very high.

"Any disruption at one end could significantly hamper chip output and hence availability," added Thakkar.

NOT THE ONLY MARKET

OEMs are not banking entirely on China for semiconductors.

"The industry has learned its lesson and knows that China is not a reliable market," said Manish Raj Singhania, President, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations.

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Anti-hijab Protests in Iran Hit Indian Tea and Basmati Exports

Trade had started picking up after two dull years

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Kolkata: Iran, the biggest market for Indian basmati rice and premium orthodox tea, has stopped giving fresh orders for these commodities amid anti-government, anti-hijab protests across Iranian cities, slowing down exports from India considerably.

Trade insiders said Iranian buyers have stopped giving fresh orders as they are keeping a close watch on the developments in the country where the situation is tense with protests spreading and the government intensifying crackdown on protesters.

The development comes at a time when exports to Iran had picked up after two dull years first due to the Covid-19 pandemic and then because of a payment crisis caused by US sanctions on Iran.

"Everything was going fine. But the sudden tension in Iran has slowed down exports to the West Asian nation," said Mohit Agarwal, director at Asian Tea & Exports, a leading tea producer and exporter based in Kolkata. "In the last ten days, we are seeing that movement (of commodities) has slowed. The shops are shut and buyer are taking cautious steps. However, we are hopeful that this will not conti-

nue for long and exports to Iran will increase," he said.

Vinod Kaul, executive director of All India Rice Exporters Association, said, "We are yet to see a significant impact of the current geopolitical tension in Iran. However, going ahead if this situation (in Iran) continues, it may impact exports."

Iran had imported 53 million kg of orthodox teas from India in 2019, before Covid-19 broke out. In 2020 and 2021, however, exports to Iran plunged to 29 million kg and 21 million kg, respectively due to the pandemic and payment crisis.

The situation started changing this calendar as the fear of Covid-19 waned and payment became normalised as tea was being sent to Iran through the UAE. In the first seven months of calendar 2022, India's tea exports to Iran increased by 7.28% year on year.

The political turmoil in Sri Lanka, which is a major producer of orthodox tea, has worked in favour of Indian exporters who were able to make further inroads in orthodox tea markets like Iran and command higher prices.

Orthodox tea refers to loose-leaf tea, produced using traditional or orthodox methods such as plucking, withering, rolling, oxidation and drying. This compares with the faster crush, tear and curl (CTC) method of processing tea.

APPLE, SAMSUNG KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Monthly Mobile Phone Exports Hit Record \$1b in Sept

PLI scheme push doubles April-Sept phone exports YoY to \$4.2 billion

Kiran.Rathee@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Monthly mobile phone exports from India touched the \$1-billion mark (over Rs 8,200 crore) for the first time ever in September. They were boosted by the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which has pushed global players such as Apple and Samsung to increase local production for the domestic as well as overseas markets.

According to data available exclusively with ET, cellphone exports for April-September more than doubled to \$4.2 billion, from \$1.7 billion in the corresponding period of 2021. Previously, the highest monthly export of mobile phones was in December 2021, when devices worth \$770 million were shipped. Exports were hovering around \$700 million each month during June-August this year.

The estimated value of mobile phone exports in September 2022 showed a growth of more than 200% over September 2021, according to the data. "To sustain this growth, we are focusing



Coming a Long Way

Mobile phones worth **₹2.75 lakh cr** produced in India in 2021-22 vs **₹90,000 cr** in 2016-17

Exports of mobiles constituted **16% of** production in 2021-22, vs **1%** in 2016-17

Mobile exports could rise to 22% of production in 2022-23

Apple, Samsung leading exports with **75-80%** share

Mobile exports worth around **\$9 billion** likely in 2022-23

on driving competitiveness through lower tariffs, improved logistics, labour reforms and deepening of the ecosystem," Pankaj Mohindroo, chairman of handset industry body India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), told ET.

As per industry executives, growth in exports has been primarily driven by Apple contract manufacturers Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron and Samsung — leading global participants in the Rs 40,995-crore PLI scheme announced in April 2020.

DECLINE IN SIX OF TOP 10 MARKETS DURING SEPTEMBER

India's Exports to China, US, UAE Dip



India's exports to the US contracted 10.7% YoY in September while those to China shrank 45.8% as overall shipments fell 3.5%, with job-creating sectors worst hit. **Kirtika Suneja** reports. **>> 7**

Exports to US, China, UAE Shrink in Sept

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New Delhi: India's exports to the US contracted 10.7% on-year in September while those to China shrank 45.8% as the country's overall shipments plummeted 3.5% last month with job-creating sectors such as engineering, garments and cotton yarn being the worst hit.

As per the analysis by the commerce and industry ministry, merchandise exports declined for six of the top 10 markets including the UAE and Bangladesh and 18 of the top 30 major commodities.

Engineering goods exports shrank 17% as Covid-19 restrictions led to a demand slowdown in China and Hong Kong coupled with 15% export duty on steel. Engineering goods exports to CIS countries were hit by the Russia-Ukraine war and Armenia-Azerbaijan tensions.



Merchandise exports declined for six of top 10 markets and 18 of the top 30 major commodities

Similarly, high inventory stocks in the US and EU, economic downturn, higher interest rates and rising inflation in the UAE and Saudi markets made apparel exports contract 21.5% in September.

"High inventory stocks in the EU and US would last till October and we may see sluggish growth in this sector till then. Industry expects a pickup after December," said an official.

Cotton yarn, fabrics and made ups exports have declined 21% on-year in April-September. The contraction in handicraft exports in the first six months of FY23 is 30.5% while in carpets is 19.1%, according to the analysis.

"We expect Australia ECTA to boost exports and there is a need to diversify products we export," the official added.

The Economic Times:dt.17/10

ROADSHOWS, DEMOS ON CARDS

India Looks to Give Impetus to Exports of GI-tagged Products



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) plans to promote some 400 products tagged with Geographical Indications (GI) globally. It plans to hold roadshows, product demonstrations and other events for the likes of Banarasi zardozi, Gir kesar mango, Firozabad glass, Araku Valley Coffee and Kancheepuram silk to boost the exports, reports **Kirtika Suneja**.

OPERATING MARGINS surge in Q2 on higher realisations, but macro troubles in key markets of Nigeria and Egypt hurt volumes and are unlikely to rebound soon, weighing on the stock

Bajaj Auto's Going Strong at Home, But Exports Hit a Bump

ET ANALYSIS

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ET Intelligence Group: Bajaj Auto to hit a home run in the three months to September, but the away leg of its business had to negotiate the dollar-surge speed bump.

That would continue to weigh on its stock as exports, hitherto the mainstay of the maker of Pulsar and Platina, are unlikely to rebound quickly due to the macroeconomic headwinds faced by African nations that give the bulk of the business to the Pune-based automaker.

Revenue climbed 16% in the second quarter despite volume expansion of just 1%, reflecting superior realisation per unit on export sales, a richer mix and favourable currency movement. Local sales expanded 30% to about 700,000 units, while export volumes declined

a quarter, led primarily by lower two-wheeler shipments.

Besides the dollar surge, regulatory curbs in Nigeria and Egypt — two geographies that account for the bulk of Bajaj Auto's Africa sales — contributed to the shrinkage in overseas shipments.

Realisation per vehicle climbed 16% year-on-year to ₹88,687 as local sales rose to half the total, from 41% a year ago. The sales mix was better over-

as in that lower-priced bikes witnessed a steeper decline in dispatches, aiding average realisation. This helped Bajaj Auto expand its operating margin by 120 basis points to 17.2% in the September quarter, lower operating leverage notwithstanding. One basis point is 0.01%.

In a post-earnings investor call, the company management said export volumes will likely be soft, although sequential improvements



Bajaj Auto: Volume Trends

Segment	H1FY23	H1FY22	YoY (%)
Domestic 2W	9,35,552	8,30,700	12.62
Domestic 3W	1,11,659	58,653	90.37
Export 2W	9,30,640	10,98,520	-15.28
Export 3W	1,06,807	1,62,548	-34.29
Total	20,84,658	21,50,421	-3.06

Source: BSE

are likely. Exports helped Bajaj Auto to ride out the rough patch the past two years when mobility curbs were periodically imposed to prevent the spread of Covid.

Last fiscal year, it earned export revenue of \$2.17 billion, up 32%, with an average run rate in excess of 200,000 units monthly. Last quarter, however, those numbers shrank to about 150,000 a month.

If the company delivers export volumes equal to the first half of 1.03 million vehicles, then it implies a volume contraction of 15-18% on a year-on-year basis. This may weigh on overall volume growth. The street has baked in the likelihood of a single-digit decline.

This would mean that of the five fiscal years to FY23, volume growth contracted in three of those years.

Bajaj Auto's stock is trading at 16.6 times one-year forward earnings, a discount of 7% to its long-term valuation band. Upside potential appears limited — at least for now.

Exports Need a Hand From Handsets PLI

Shows structural changes needed in manufacturing

Mobile handset exports from India crossed \$1 billion in September, more than tripling from a year ago and serving as the poster child for the government's much-touted production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for local manufacturing. Samsung and contract manufacturers for Apple are pushing the surge in exports, having committed to steep increases in production and outbound shipments in the next financial year over this one. They are also required to deepen value-addition that involves enhancing the local vendor pool. The initial success with mobile handset exports from India cannot, however, cloak the challenges in scaling up.

The PLI scheme, which intends to roll out ₹1.93 lakh crore in incentives for local manufacturing in 14 industrial segments and is expected to widen to a few more, faces teething issues over eligibility requirements and tardy disbursement. It is also affected by the slow development of local vendor chains that are vital for India to provide an alternative to small Chinese firms that are unlikely to set up a base here. Indian companies that were expected to step up and be counted have not delivered yet. Apple's contract ma-



nufacturers in India, Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron are, thus, on a speeding treadmill of production and exports while having to seed local supply chains. The PLI scheme has by and large bypassed Indian handset-makers, laid low by the onslaught of Chinese rivals. Government intervention is required to encourage exports by Chinese handset manufacturers that are focussed on the domestic market and create a pathway for Indian peers to become, in turn, their contract manufacturers.

The road ahead for the most successful PLI deployment offers a glimpse into the structural changes needed in manufacturing to give wing to the government's hugely ambitious plan of offering the world some degree of supply chain resilience. If India gets it right, the payoff could be enormous in terms of capital expenditure and job creation.

✓ Financial Express:dt.11/10

Haryana (602%) and Rajasthan

Cheaper imports bring down soyabean, mustard seed prices

SANDIP DAS

New Delhi, October 10

A FALL IN import prices has pulled down mandi prices of edible oil seeds such as mustard and soyabean, the Mustard Oil Producers' Association (MOPA) said on Monday. It also urged the government to lift stockholding limits on edible oil and oil seeds immediately. These controls, the MOPA said, have hit processing of oil seeds.

The landed prices of palm oil (at Mumbai port), which accounts for 60% share in India's edible oil imports, have declined 36% to \$930 a tonne on October 7, against \$1,453 a year ago. "Cheaper palm oil imports have impacted the mandi prices of soyabean and mustard oil in the recent months," Krishna Kumar Agarwal, general secretary, MOPA, told FE.

Stating that in the last four months, the prices of imported edible oil have fallen 40-45%, MOPA noted "as a result, the

The government has been urged to lift stockholding limits on edible oil and oil seeds immediately

price of soyabean seeds, which was selling at around ₹9,500/quintal last year, is now selling at ₹4,500/quintal."

Similarly, mustard seed prices are currently around ₹6,000/quintal against ₹8,500 a year ago. "Lower prices realised by farmers could discourage them to shift to oilseeds cultivation," Agarwal said.

On April 1, to curb the price rise, the government extended stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds till December 31, 2022. In October 2021, the government had imposed stock holding limits on edible oils and oilseeds till March 31, 2022. However, the quantities of stock limits of edible oils and oilseeds were left to the state and UTs to

decide based on their respective consumption pattern.

According to the stock holding limits, retailers can hold only up to 30 quintal of edible oils and 100 quintal of oilseeds while wholesalers can hold 500 quintal of edible oils and 2,000 quintal of oilseeds at any given time.

Processors of edible oils would be able to stock 90 days of their storage capacities while processors of oilseeds would be able to stock 90 days of production of edible oils as per the daily requirement of the production capacity.

Recently the bodies such as Solvent Extractors' Association of India, Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade (COOIT), MOPA along with a number of farmer producer organisations have called for lifting futures trade ban imposed on edible oil in December, 2021 to ensure risk management and price discovery mechanism.

Ukraine war: April-Aug wheat exports double of previous year's quantity

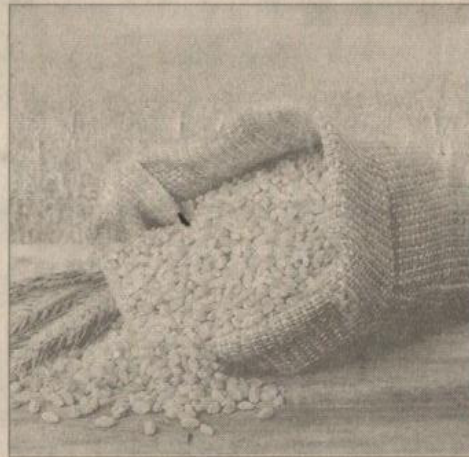
HARIKISHAN SHARMA
New Delhi, October 16

IN THE FIRST five months of this financial year — April to August — India exported double the quantity of wheat compared with the same period in 2021-22, official data show. This is in spite of a slowing of exports after the sudden ban announced by the government in mid-May.

India exported 43.50 lakh metric tonne (lmt) of wheat during April-August 2022-23, which was 116.7% more than the corresponding months last year, according to Department of Commerce data. Exports were boosted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February, which led to a major spike in demand for Indian wheat. Exports in April touched 14.71 lmt, more than 500 per cent higher than the 2.42 lmt exported in April last year. After the ban announced on May 13, exports for that month fell to 10.79 lmt, which, however, was still 164 per cent higher than the 4.08 lmt exported in May 2021.

Exports have fallen thereafter — 7.24 lmt in June, 4.94 lmt in July, and 5.80 lmt in August compared with 4.57 lmt, 3.75 lmt, and 5.22 lmt in June, July and August 2021 respectively.

India exported wheat to 44



countries in April — the most (3.35 lmt) to Bangladesh and the least to the United Kingdom (2,000 metric tonnes). The number of national export destinations fell to 31 in May (Bangladesh was again on top), and sharply thereafter following the ban. India exported wheat to 11 countries in June 2022, only five countries in July (Indonesia, Bangladesh, Korea, the UAE, and Angola), and eight in August (Bangladesh, the UAE, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Bhutan).

Indonesia emerged as the top buyer of Indian wheat in the months after the ban. Of the 18 lmt of wheat exports in this period, about 7 lmt went to Indonesia. In the five-month period from April to August, Indonesia has been the No. 2

export destination for Indian wheat after Bangladesh (8.06 lmt and 11.12 lmt respectively).

The export of atta (wheat or meslin flour) too has more than doubled in the first five months of the current financial year — 4.49 lmt compared with 1.64 lmt during April-August 2021. Somalia, the UAE, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, and Djibouti were the top 5 buyers of Indian flour during April-August 2022. The ban on wheat exports came amid a lower wheat output of 106 million tonnes, lower procurement (18.7 million tonnes compared to 43.3 million tonnes last year), and rising domestic prices. However, two kinds of shipments were allowed: exports based on permission granted by the Centre to other countries "to meet their food security needs" and "on the request of their governments"; and contracted exports against which irrevocable letters of credit had already been issued.

Prices of wheat and wheat flour in the domestic market have increased significantly of late. Price data on the Department of Consumer Affairs website show the all-India daily average retail price of wheat flour at Rs 36.23 per kg on October 15, which was 18 per cent higher than the price a year ago (₹30.7 per kg).

✓

India to meet \$2-trn export target by 2030, says Goyal

FE BUREAU
Chennai, October 16

INDIA WILL ACHIEVE the target for exports of \$2 trillion by 2030 despite global headwinds, Union minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal said on Sunday.

He said that by 2047, the country will become a \$30-trillion economy. By 2030, exports from India will be worth \$2 trillion, with merchandise shipments of \$1 trillion. Merchandise exports will grow at a CAGR of 11-12% and service exports at 18-19%.

The minister held discussions with exporters here in the context of the current geopolitical scenario and deliberated on the way forward to keep the growth momentum. The session was attended by a large number of exporters from Tamil Nadu.

India's merchandise exports last fiscal stood at \$422 billion, while services exports were \$254 billion. "We have to push our exports so as to be in the comity of developed countries. Despite

global headwinds, Indian exports have done reasonably well, clocking 15% growth in the first six months of the current fiscal," he said.

He assured the industry participants that the government is committed to addressing issues raised by them. The commerce and industry minister urged trade and industry members to make all efforts to achieve higher export growth in this financial year.

Exporters have flagged several issues, including the rising cost of raw materials, subdued demand in key export markets and the need for more support to exporters.

Industry leaders requested the inclusion of sectors left out of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme and rationalisation of existing RoDTEP rates, exploring the possibility for increased support under the interest equalisation scheme (IES) and market access initiative (MAI), and operationalisation of production-linked incentive schemes for additional sectors.