

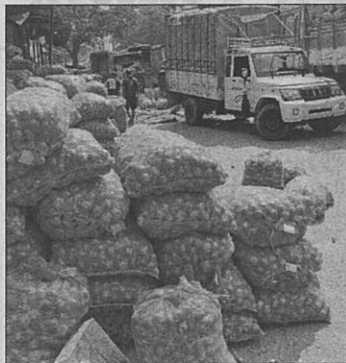
Amid Export Ban, Govt to Buy 1,650 t Onions from Traders for Bangladesh

First official export in over 3 mths; global prices zoom due to shortage

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Pune: Government's export agency National Cooperative Export (NCEL) will buy 1650 tonnes of onions at ₹29 a kg from the private traders to export to Bangladesh, said industry sources. It will be the first official export of the essential kitchen staple from India in more than three months since the country banned its export from December 8 to March 31. In March first week, the central government allowed export of 64,400 tonnes of onions to countries from which it had received requests for onions through diplomatic channels, the government of officials had said.

India's ban on export of onions to control the domestic prices had led to a crash in domestic prices. It also led to sharp increase in international



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prices as non-availability of Indian onion increased the global shortages.

The demand from India's traditional buyers like Bangladesh, the Middle East and some countries from Southeast Asia is at peak du-

ring the Ramadan season.

The onion exporters had written to the central government claiming that huge quantities of Indian onions — more than 50% of the normal time trade — were smuggled out of the country after India banned its export.

At present, onion prices in the wholesale markets of the Nashik district are ruling between ₹7/kg to ₹16/kg. As the arrival of the rabi crop would increase gradually, the prices may soften further.

Although it is not clear at what price will NCEL export onions to buyers in Bangladesh; industry insiders say that there would be considerable profits as onions are selling at ₹80-90/kg in Bangladesh.

"The farmers and the private trade could not benefit from the high international prices," said a Nashik-based industry veteran.