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Sharp rise in atta exports after wheat import curbs

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New Delhi: The steep rise in export of atta (wheat flour) post the strict controls imposed on wheat exports has come under the scanner of the central government. It may soon take steps to ensure that traders don't use the atta export to beat government restrictions.

Responding to whether the government is considering

any restriction on the export of atta, Union food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said, "The government is monitoring the prices and after monitoring the government will take the appropriate step...Ultimately monitoring is necessary because wheat, if is regulated, it should not so happen that wheat gets converted into excessive quantity of atta and that gets exported. So, you

have to maintain a balance and monitor if the trend is abnormal or normal."

In response to a supplementary he said the trend of atta export is "on the higher side" when compared to the last year. Officials said around 2.6 lakh tonnes of atta has been shipped out of the country since this April. According to industry insiders, earlier the monthly export of atta du-

ring April to June was around 8,000 tonnes.

The government also said that since April around 30 lakh tonnes of wheat has been exported from India and since the restrictions were imposed around 1.5 lakh tonnes of wheat has gone to Bangladesh. Effective from May 13, the government restricted wheat export to ensure domestic availability and check price rise.