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Centre amends export policy for wheat flour to ensure food security

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Russia and Ukraine are the major exporters of wheat accounting for around 1/4th of the global wheat trade. The conflict between them led to the global wheat supply chain disruptions increasing demand for Indian wheat. As a result, the price of wheat in the domestic market showed an increase. In order to ensure food security for 1.4 billion people of the country, the decision was taken to put a prohibition on export of wheat in May 2022. However, due to prohibition on export of wheat (which was done to put a check on increasing prices in domestic market and to ensure food security in the country), the demand for wheat flour has increased in foreign markets and itâ??s exports from India have registered a growth of 200 per cent during April-July 2022 compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

Earlier, there was a policy not to prohibit or put any restrictions on the export of Wheat flour. Therefore, a partial modification of the policy was required by withdrawing the exemption from ban/ restrictions on export for Wheat Flour in order to ensure food security and put a check on mounting prices of Wheat flour in the country.

The increased demand for wheat flour in the international market led to significant price rise of wheat flour in the domestic market.

The approval will now allow a restriction on the export of Wheat Flour which will ensure a curb on rising prices of wheat flour and ensure food security of the most vulnerable sections of the society.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) shall issue a notification to this effect.