

Pakistan may buy tomatoes from Iran as price skyrockets

Pakistan is considering buying tomatoes from Iran after its supply was partially hit by the lack of import from India.

The Pakistan government on Wednesday said it is considering buying tomatoes from Iran after its supply was partially hit by the lack of import from India and the prices of the fruit skyrocketed between Rs 180 per kg to Rs 300 per kg in several parts of the country, according to media reports.

As per the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the average maximum national price of tomatoes was Rs 180 per kg, while it was selling as high as Rs 300 per kg in several parts of the country, the Dawn newspaper reported.

We will consider allowing import of tomatoes from Iran, Muhammad Hashim Popalzai, Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security was quoted as saying in the report.

We will think over it and make a decision in the meeting, Popalzai said, adding that he is meeting importers, the report said.

Various factors have led to reduction in the supply of tomatoes, including ill-timed government policies and heavy rains which affected its production.

The suspension of trade with India over the Kashmir issue has also contributed to rising prices of vegetables in the domestic market. The supply gap has also been partially supported by the lack of imports from Wagah border from India, the report said.

Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties and suspended trade with India after New Delhi revoked special status given to Jammu and Kashmir.





It is estimated that the imports from Iran will help compensate till the time new crop of tomatoes and onions will reach the market in the next few weeks from Sindh, the report said.

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