Tamil Nadu Gazette notifies stock limits on rice, paddy, tur and urad

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News

With the Centre's prior approval and under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Tamil Nadu government fixed stock ceilings for tur dal, urad dal, rice and paddy through Gazette notifications 486 and 487 of 13 November 2026 – the pulse limits for three months from 13 November and the rice/paddy limits till 31 January 2027; traders holding more had to bring stocks down by 16 November, IANS reported on 14 November. The notifications bring into force the tur and urad limits approved by the Centre, and add limits on rice and paddy. Under a Union order of 6 November, rice and paddy stocks must be declared on foodstock.dfpd.gov.in, and pulse and sugar stocks on fcainfoweb.nic.in, every Friday. A monitoring committee of District Supply Officers, Circle Supply Officers and Civil Supplies CID officials will check hoarding and black-marketing; farmers remain free to store and sell their own produce. The same day the State also published the Union government's sugar stock-limit order in the Gazette as notification No. 490: sugar dealers may not hold more than 1,000 quintals and may not keep sugar for more than 15 days from the date of receipt. The limit applies from 15 October to 30 November 2026; only the Kolkata metropolitan area and Assam are allowed 2,000 quintals. The Centre says the step is meant to curb hoarding and speculation in the festive season and speed sugar's movement from mills to consumers. The dealer limit had earlier been set at 4,000 quintals from 1 August and cut to 2,000 quintals from 15 September; the government says retail sugar prices are about 15% below their August peak (UNI).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Gazette notifications	486, 487 (13.11.2026) – State stock limits; 490 – Union sugar order
Items	Tur dal, urad dal, rice, paddy
Pulse limits	3 months from 13.11.2026
Rice, paddy limits	Till 31.01.2027
Excess stock	To be cleared by 16.11.2026
Sugar limit	1,000 quintals, 15 days (15.10–30.11.2026); Kolkata, Assam – 2,000
Legal basis	Essential Commodities Act, 1955 – Section 3
Stock declaration	Every Friday – foodstock.dfpd.gov.in (rice, paddy); fcainfoweb.nic.in (pulses, sugar)
Complaint numbers	1967, 1800 425 5901

Background

- Polity: trade, production, supply and distribution of foodstuffs are in the Concurrent List (Entry 33) of the Seventh Schedule. So under Section 3 of the Union's Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Centre – and States with its approval – can impose stock limits.
- Economy: India's sugar season runs from 1 October to 30 September. The 2026-27 season began on 1 October; the government is watching cane output because uneven, deficient El Niño-linked rain may hurt some regions (UNI). Ex-mill prices were about 28% below the August peak (government, 1 Oct 2026).
- Sugar reform: the C. Rangarajan Committee (Oct 2012) recommended ending 'levy sugar' – under which mills surrendered 10% of output to the government below market price – removing release controls, and sharing cane value 70:30 between farmers and mills (PRS).
- Science: white sugar is sucrose, a disaccharide (glucose + fructose), crystallised from cane juice; the fibre left after crushing is burnt as fuel in mills.

Tamil Nadu link: Rice, sugar, tur dal, palmolein and other items for ration shops are procured and distributed by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC), set up in 1972; as an agent of the Food Corporation of India it also buys paddy and ragi from farmers. Hoarding can be reported on the toll-free numbers 1967 and 1800 425 5901, or to the District Supply and Consumer Protection Officer.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

With the Centre's prior approval and under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Tamil Nadu government fixed stock ceilings for tur dal, urad dal, rice and paddy through Gazette notifications 486 and 487 of 13 November 2026 – the pulse limits for three months from 13 November and the rice/paddy limits till 31 January 2027; traders holding more had to bring stocks down by 16 November, IANS reported on 14 November.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Gazette notifications: 486, 487 (13.11.2026) – State stock limits; 490 – Union sugar order; Items: Tur dal, urad dal, rice, paddy; Pulse limits: 3 months from 13.11.2026; Rice, paddy limits: Till 31.01.2027.

What is the background to this news?

Polity: trade, production, supply and distribution of foodstuffs are in the Concurrent List (Entry 33) of the Seventh Schedule.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Trade in, supply and distribution of foodstuffs fall under which list of the Seventh Schedule?

A) Union List

B) State List

C) Concurrent List

D) Residuary powers

Answer: C – Explanation: Concurrent List, Entry 33 – both Centre and States can legislate; it also covers edible oils, cattle fodder and raw cotton.

2. In India, the 'sugar season' refers to which period?

A) October–September

B) April–March

C) January–December

D) July–June

Answer: A – Explanation: 1 October to 30 September; the 2026-27 sugar season began on 1 October. The financial year is April–March.

3. Which committee (2012) recommended ending 'levy sugar', under which mills gave part of their output to the government cheaply?

A) Abhijit Sen Committee

B) Shanta Kumar Committee

C) Swaminathan Committee

D) C. Rangarajan Committee

Answer: D – Explanation: C. Rangarajan, then head of the PM's Economic Advisory Council – Oct 2012 report; it also proposed a 70:30 farmer–mill share of cane value.

4. Which Tamil Nadu government body, set up in 1972, procures and supplies rice, sugar and other items to ration shops?

A) Aavin

B) TASMAC

C) TANSI

D) TN Civil Supplies Corpn

Answer: D – Explanation: TNCSC – as an agent of the Food Corporation of India, it also buys paddy and ragi from farmers.

5. Table sugar (sucrose) is a disaccharide made of which two simple sugars?

A) Glucose + galactose

B) Glucose + fructose

C) Glucose + glucose

D) Fructose + galactose

Answer: B – Explanation: Glucose + fructose. Milk's lactose = glucose + galactose; maltose = two glucose units.

Sources: IANS, 14 Nov 2026; UNI, 1 Oct 2026; DFPD sugar stock-limit notices (dfpd.gov.in); News On AIR, 2 Sep & 18 Sep 2026; Constitution of India (List III, Entry 33); PRS India (Rangarajan Committee); TNCSC – tncsc.tn.gov.in. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.