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Local fish prices unchanged

MANASH PRATIM DUTTA Jul 22, 2018 00:00 IST

Guwahati: The prices of local fish remained unchanged in city markets even after the restriction on imported fish expired on Friday.

The Assam government had banned the import of fish from outside the state for 10 days from July 10, following detection of formalin in the fish bought from Andhra Pradesh.

With the restrictions, the wholesale market price of local varieties of fish had also increased. Rohu, which sold for Rs 150 per kg on Tuesday was sold between Rs 180 and Rs 200 on Wednesday. Prawn, which was Rs 1,000 per kg on Friday, cost Rs 1,400. Grass carp, one of the highest-selling fish in the market, became Rs 250 per kg with an increase of Rs 50.

On Saturday, the prices remained unchanged in Guwahati.

A retail fish seller of the city said as supply of imported fish is inadequate, the prices of local fish did not fall on Saturday. "The prices of local fish might decrease by Sunday or Monday after adequate supply of imported fish comes from Andhra Pradesh. But it is not certain whether the wholeseller will change the rate or not," Sudip Das, a fish seller in Chandmari, told **The Telegraph**.

Explaining the impact of the restriction, an official of the state fishery department, said, "The Andhra Pradesh government has assured they will take responsibility of fish until the consignment reaches Guwahati. They had given surety about not using formalin for preserving fish. To ensure quality, our food safety department will carry out tests after a consignment reaches Guwahati."

Assam state public health laboratory chief analyst Anupam Gogoi said, "We have formed a special team to carry out an investigation of imported fish. Fish samples will be sent to our laboratory by the concerned officials from Monday."

Sources said from Monday the kits for on-the-spot test of fish will also be available in Assam. The kits have been supplied free of cost by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, a body under the Union ministry of health and family welfare.