

# Minister says US food purchases conditional on meeting Iran's terms



Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah  
ISNA

## Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah said on Thursday that any purchase of essential goods from US-linked multinational companies will proceed only if Iran's conditions are met, and that alternative supply sources will be pursued if those conditions are not satisfied. In a post on X, Nouri-Qazaljah said the continuation of recent years' practice of sourcing part

of Iran's essential goods from multinational companies with American shareholders would depend on Iran's conditions being met.

"In addition to the conditions stipulated in the memorandum of understanding [between Iran and the US], price, quality, and health indicators will be taken into consideration."

"If any of the conditions are not met, supply will be sourced from other origins," he added. The remarks came after Iran

and the United States signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding on June 18 extending their ceasefire for 60 days to allow negotiations on Iran's nuclear program and other key issues. The agreement includes lifting the naval blockade on Iran's southern ports and commercial vessels, granting sanctions waivers, and releasing part of Tehran's frozen assets. According to ISNA, Nouri-Qezeljah had earlier said that using unfrozen funds to secure

essential goods would be a positive opportunity for Iran, allowing the country to preserve its hard currency reserves. "If conditions allow us to use blocked resources for essential goods, this would be a good opportunity. Instead of using cash and the country's fresh foreign exchange resources, we would use frozen funds and save cash reserves for other purposes," he said. However, he stressed that there is no obligation to do so, and that agreements contain

no requirement for such purchases.

Indirect technical talks between Washington and Tehran, mediated by Qatar and Pakistan, were held in Doha on Wednesday, focusing on Iran's frozen assets and the Strait of Hormuz. President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that "\$6 billion out of the total \$12 billion of Iranian resources in Qatar will be released and returned to the country," adding that the necessary follow-up steps were underway.

US President Donald Trump said on June 23 that any Iranian funds unlocked under the arrangement would be used to purchase American corn, soybeans and wheat. The money, he said, would be held "in escrow, controlled by" Washington and spent "exclusively" on American food and medical supplies.

Nouri-Qezeljah, speaking to reporters on Wednesday, reiterated that claims of Iran being forced to buy from US companies are unfounded. "If the conditions offered by these companies do not align with the Ministry of Agriculture's standards, no purchase will be made, and supplies will be sourced from other origins," Tasnim quoted him as saying. He emphasized that "health, quality, and price" are the ministry's key red lines for essential goods imports. "All imported consignments are carefully inspected, ship by ship, and genetically modified organism (GMO) content is examined by spe-

cialized centers," he said, adding that while importing GMO products with legal permits is not prohibited under current law, "cultivation of these products inside the country is not permitted."

The minister said Iran aims to secure essential goods at the most competitive prices. "On equal footing, friendly and aligned countries—especially those that have stood by Iran in difficult times—will be given priority for cooperation," he added.

He said that about 15% of Iran's food security needs are met through imports, while more than 85% are produced domestically, although part of domestic production depends on imported inputs. According to Nouri-Qazaljah, Iran imports about \$16 billion worth of essential goods annually.

The minister said part of Iran's financial resources had been frozen abroad for years and, because of sanctions-related restrictions, those funds could only be spent through companies approved by the US side, a practice that predated the latest agreements and was unrelated to the new understandings.

"If it becomes possible to use frozen assets to supply essential goods, it will benefit the country's economy because, instead of paying with cash currency, resources that have been inaccessible for years will be used, preserving the country's cash reserves for other needs," he said.

## Iran in talks with Turkey to import power for petrochemical plants damaged in war

### Economy Desk

Iran has begun negotiations with Turkey to secure electricity imports for its petrochemical industry after power plants serving the sector were damaged during the recent US-Israeli war, a senior energy official said Thursday.

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, deputy energy minister for electricity and energy, traveled to Turkey on Thursday for preliminary talks on importing up to 450 megawatts of power through the Khoy-Van transmission line, according to remarks he made before departure.

"The transfer of 450 megawatts of electricity through the Khoy-Van transmission line is on the agenda of the talks," Rajabi Mashhadi said, as reported by the government's information website, dolat.ir.

The visit aims to assess technical conditions and pricing, with a view to reaching a tripartite agreement between Iran's Energy Ministry, Iranian petrochemical industries, and the Turkish side, facilitated by a private intermediary company.

"Fortunately, we have a very advanced 'back-to-back' power substation at the border," he said, adding that the plan remains in its early stages and no contract has been signed. "The main objective of this trip is to conduct preliminary negotiations and agree on electricity



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pricing."

"If the parties reach a final agreement, a tripartite contract will be signed among the Energy Ministry, Iran's petrochemical industries, and the Turkish side, with the cooperation of a private intermediary company, to operationalize the power transfer process."

The push for imports comes after power plants supplying electricity and steam to petrochemical complexes were targeted during the 40-day war that began in late February. Some ancillary facilities were directly hit, and production units at multiple companies were struck and taken out of production, according to previous statements by industry officials.

According to Hassan Abbaszadeh, managing director of the National Iranian Petrochemical Company, who spoke in mid-June, about 38% of production capacity knocked out during the conflict has since been restored. The deputy oil minister added that polymer and plastics mar-

kets have now stabilized.

Air strikes over several days hit facilities in Mahshahr, in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, and in Asaluyeh, in the southern province of Bushehr, damaging installations at multiple companies in April. The Tabriz and Marvdasht (Shiraz) plants were also hit.

The petrochemical industry plays a vital role in development, job creation, and supplying raw materials for many essential goods in Iran. The country's nominal annual production capacity stands at roughly 100 million tons, with actual output at about 80 million tons.

"In line with the Energy Ministry's efforts to compensate for the power shortfall at damaged petrochemical industries, preliminary planning has been done so that, if an agreement is reached, we can supply the electricity needed by these industries through imports from Turkey with the participation of the private sector," Rajabi Mashhadi said.

## Conflict-damaged vehicle claims accelerate as 71% compensated

### Economy Desk

The assessment and compensation process for vehicles damaged in the American-Israeli war that began in late February has accelerated in recent weeks under the supervision of Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, with approximately 71% of claimants having received payouts so far, official data showed.

A total of 34,573 vehicle damage claims have been registered across 29 provinces as of June 23, according to the latest statistics from IRNA. Of these, 30,786 cases have been assessed to date, indicating that the majority of claims have been reviewed and prepared for compensation in a short period.

In the 16th, 17th, and 18th rounds of compensation payments, conducted on June 22 and 23, damages for 1,685 vehicles were paid to their owners. With these payments, the total number of vehicles that have received compensation has reached 24,856.

The latest data on insurance industry payouts for vehicle damage during the 12-day Israeli war in June 2025 show that the conflict damaged 4,486 vehicles.

According to IRNA, the Min-



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istry of Economic Affairs and Finance has sought to utilize insurance companies' capacity and coordinate among executive bodies to ensure that the claims filing, damage assessment, and compensation process is completed in the minimum possible time. The aim is to allow citizens to return their vehicles to use as quickly as possible and resume daily and economic activities.

The insurance industry, having obtained necessary permits from the ministry, has so far paid over 21,000 billion rials (\$12 million at an exchange rate of 1,750,000 rials per dollar) in compensation to owners of more than 29,000 vehicles damaged in the two wars, according to

the Mehr news agency.

The measure is part of the government's policy to manage the economic impacts of the war and support victims. Alongside compensating for financial losses, the policy seeks to strengthen societal psychological peace, reduce livelihood concerns, and accelerate the reconstruction process in affected areas. The continuation of compensation payments and the processing of remaining cases remain on the ministry's agenda, ensuring that all victims benefit from the planned support in the shortest possible time, thereby facilitating the swift return of people to their normal lives and economic activities.