Japan raises preservative limit in shrimp feed

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KOCHI: In a move that would favour Indian seafood exporters and shrimp shipments, Japan has increased the maximum residue limit (MRL) of ethoxyquin, an antioxidant preservative used in fishmeal, in Indian shrimps and prawns.

Ethoxyquin's MRL has been raised to 0.2 ppm (parts per million) from 0.01 ppm allowed earlier, said Leena Nair, chairman of Kochi-based Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), in a statement. In August 2012, the island nation had lowered the acceptable level of ethoxyquin to 0.01ppm for prawns sourced from India and Vietnam.

"In its meeting of November 29, 2013, the committee of Japanese ministry of health, labour and welfare has approved to fix a MRL of 0.2 ppm in crustaceans including farmed shrimp. The MRL was notified on December 2, 2013 for public comments in Japan, besides was also placed in World Trade Organisation," Leena Nair said in a statement.

India stands at the third spot in shrimp imports to Japan during the calendar year 2013, followed by Vietnam and Indonesia. Since September 2013, India is the largest supplier of frozen shrimp to Japanese markets, MPEDA said.
New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI) Japan has raised the maximum residue limit of a chemical used as feed and preservative for marine products by Indian exporters - a move that will help boost shipments of shrimp to that country.

Japan had lowered the acceptable level of ethoxyquin in shrimps, and rejected several Indian consignments of seafood.

The MRL has been fixed at 0.2 parts per million - from 0.01 ppm - in crustaceans including farmed shrimp.