

## Government may lift O2 supply freeze to industry soon

Sidhartha / TNN / Updated: Jun 4, 2021, 15:40 IST

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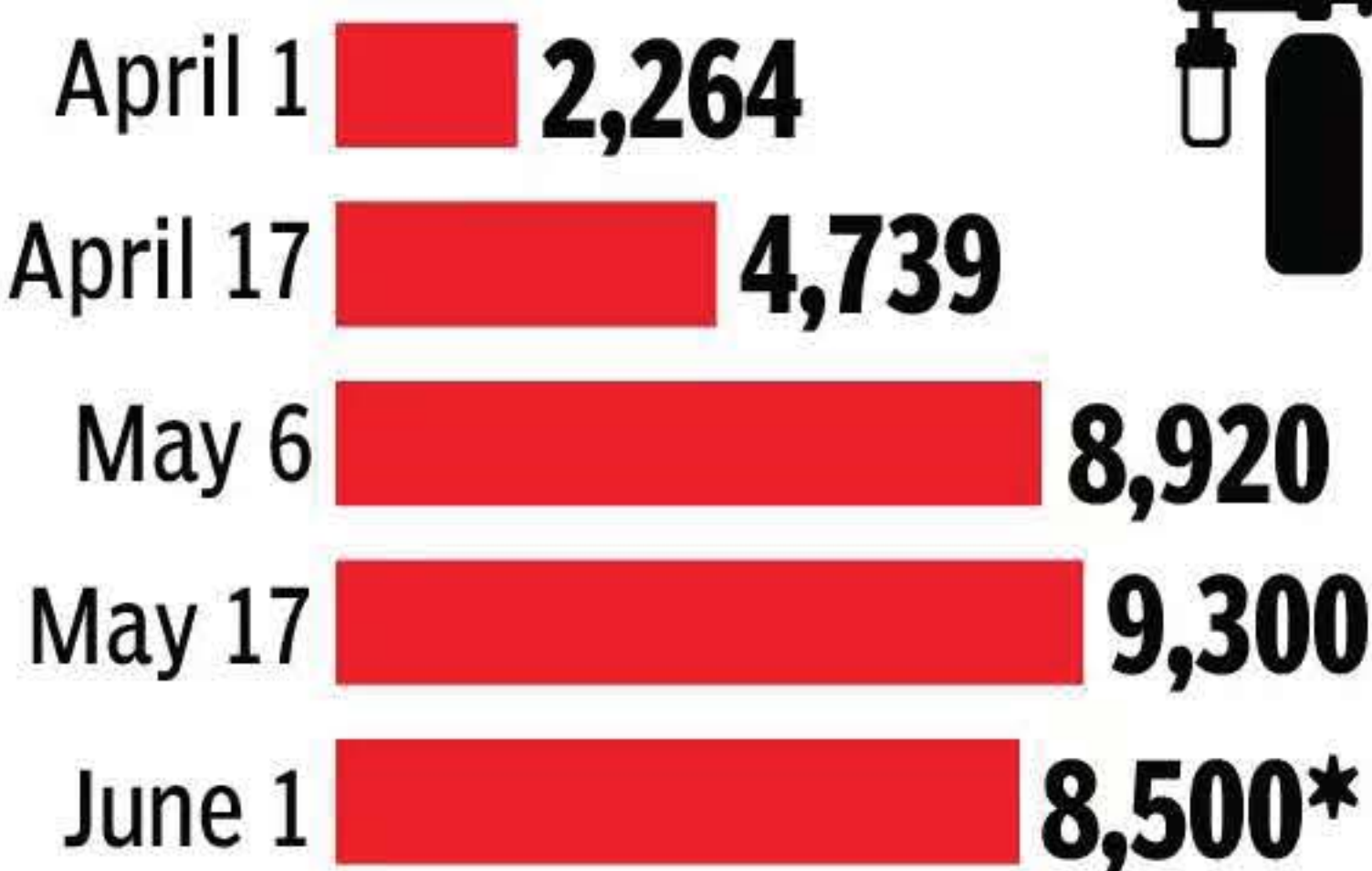
NEW DELHI: With the [demand](#) for [oxygen](#) on the decline, in line with the [Covid](#) patient count, the [government](#) is expected to lift the freeze on oxygen supply to [industry](#) over the [next few days](#).

According to data available with the Centre, the demand for liquid medical oxygen is steadily coming down and is estimated at around 5,500 metric tonne from about 6,600 MT on May 29.

Just a few weeks ago production had been scaled up to nearly 9,300 MT. With demand falling, production too has been reduced to around 8,500 MT, sources in the know told TOI.

## SUPPLY CARD

### Liquid medical oxygen output (Metric tonnes)



\*Approx

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Besides, supply norms have also been eased to allow MSMEs, infrastructure projects and exporters engaged in manufacturing to tap into the available pool. A senior government official told TOI that the restriction on supply to industry, which kicked in around mid-April, will be removed in the coming days as things normalise.

As more states lift restrictions, the demand for oxygen will also go up. In fact, until the rules were eased, some of the smaller steel units and even infrastructure projects in the government sector had begun complaining about work getting stalled due to the absence of oxygen.

From a daily case count of over 4 lakh, the number of new Covid cases has been hovering around 1.3 lakh in the last few days, with the number expected to see a sharper fall over the next few days.

Steel and oil companies had significantly ramped up liquid medical oxygen production to nearly 10 times the 2019 level following a call from