

Halal certification not mentioned in Food Safety and Standards Act 2006

► Continued from P 1

Halal certification therefore was a parallel system and illegal under the 2006 Act," the order says, adding, "therefore, keeping in mind the public health, production, storage, distribution and sale of 'Halal-certified' food products (except in cases of items pro-



duced for export purposes) are banned within the boundaries of Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect."

"The state government recently received information indicating that products such as dairy items, sugar, bakery products, peppermint oil, salty ready-to-eat beverages, and edible oils were being labeled with Halal certification. Halal certification is not mentioned in the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and therefore is illegal," says a government spokesperson.

Meanwhile, additional chief secretary, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Anita Singh has directed the food commissioner to extend such a ban if they come across any on medicines, medical equipment, cosmetics, its storage, along with sale and its marketing with halal certification.

On Friday, the FIR was registered at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on the basis of a complaint lodged by a resident of Motijheel Colony in Aishbagh who has his business firm in Hazratganj.

The case has been registered under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 153A (promoting enmity between diffe-

WHAT ARE HALAL PRODUCTS

► Halal or 'permitted' in Arabic means a process or ingredients that are permissible in Islam

► Halal certification is a stamp of assurance that the food/product in reference is in accordance with Islamic

law. Halal products should be compliant with guidelines for purity and hygiene and should not contain any derivatives of pork (which may be present in gelatin and emulsifiers) or alcohol

► In case of meat products,

animals must be slaughtered as per the procedures under Islamic law

► In India, FSSAI certification can be seen on all processed foods but the govt does not mandate halal certification

Where Is The Problem?

"Earlier, Halal tag was required mostly for meat and meat products, but now certain agencies have started illegally issuing fake halal certificates for even products like beauty oil, soaps, and toothpaste. Such products do not need halal certificates but that this is being done to create a sense of fear and anxiety among a particular community. These companies are targeting one specific community with these certificates and thereby engaging in the criminal act. These companies are part of a conspiracy to spread misinformation and that they are using these certificates to advertise their products," says a govt spokesperson

Counter-View

"We adhere to government regulations, as emphasised in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry notification, requiring all halal certification bodies to be registered by NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under Quality Council of India), a milestone that Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust has achieved," said the statement issued by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust

rent groups), 298 (uttering words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings), 384 (extortion), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the IPC.

The agencies named in the FIR as accused are Halal India Private Limited, Chennai; Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust, Delhi, Halal Council of India, Mumbai; Jamiat Ulama, Maharashtra and others for allegedly exploiting religious sentiments to boost sales by providing halal certificates to customers of a specific religion, the UP government said in a statement on Saturday.

The FIR raised concerns over a potential large-scale conspiracy, indicating at-

tempts to decrease the sale of products from companies without the halal certificate, which is illegal. "There is an apprehension that this unfair advantage is being passed on to anti-social and anti-national elements," it said.

"The issuance of halal certificates for vegetarian products like oil, soap, toothpaste, and honey, where no such certification is necessary, suggests a deliberate criminal conspiracy targeting a specific community and its products," it said.

The FIR also alleged that, under the guise of religion, "unrestrained propaganda" is being pursued within a particular section of the society to discourage the use of products lacking a halal certificate. This, in turn, harms the business interests of other communities.

"The FIR also expressed concern over these individuals amassing disproportiona-

te profits and potentially channelling funds towards supporting terrorist organisations and anti-national endeavours," added the government spokesperson.

"We adhere to government regulations, as emphasised in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry notification, requiring all halal certification bodies to be registered by NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under Quality Council of India), a milestone that Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust has achieved," said the statement issued by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust.

"It is also a matter of choice of individuals and manufacturers preferring certain certifications for their own satisfaction based upon the credentials which the certifying authorities enjoy. Those who do not want to use such products are free not to use them," it further said.