



Halal Certification Controversy in Non-Meat Products

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The **Solicitor General**, in response to a petition in the Supreme Court, **opposed** the practice of **halal certification for non-meat products** like **cement, iron bars, wheat flour (atta), and gram flour (besan)**.

- The halal certification system is alleged to **harm businesses not adhering to halal standards**, with claims of fostering **unfair competition**.
 - Companies accused of issuing forged halal certificates **exploited religious sentiments** to boost sales, fostering **social animosity and violating public trust**.
- **About Halal:** Halal is an **Arabic word** that loosely translates to **permissible** in English.
 - The **FAO** defines Halal Food as that which is **permitted under Islamic Law**.
 - A halal certification is a guarantee that the **food is prepared, adhering to Islamic law, and is unadulterated**.
 - India **lacks a national halal certification system**, though efforts to streamline certification for meat products through the **i-CAS (Indian Conformity Assessment Scheme) scheme** are underway.
 - i-CAS streamlines **Halal certification** for meat and meat products.
 - **Meat and its products** can be **exported as 'halal certified'** only if produced, processed, and packaged in a facility with a **valid certificate** from an accredited body, as per **DGFT guidelines**.
- **About Solicitor General:** SG is the **2nd senior most law officer** of the government after the **Attorney General**.

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