

The chicken check



With Pakistani markets already flooded with low-cost imported and smuggled products, the latest entry has been that of packed poultry meat from China at rates as low as Rs 60 to Rs 70 per kg, much to the surprise of the local poultry industry.

The presence of this meat in the local markets has made the industry and consumers worry alike as there are a lot of questions to be answered. Is the meat halal? Is it free of

halal.

Maj (retd) Javed Bukhari, Secretary Pakistan Poultry Association told *TNS* that poultry imported from China was mostly in the form of packed, skinless and boneless breast pieces. Immediately after coming to know about this import, PPA raised the issue at all forums but the meat was consumed within a few days. "We took up the matter with the ministries of livestock, commerce and industry on different grounds and are hoping to see a total ban on these imports any time soon," Bukhari added.

He said the local poultry

the method of slaughtering of chicken in China, if there was any. He said the company sold meat after packing it under its own brand name which is a malpractice as well. Manufacturers of prepared food, who are using imported chicken meat, must print all such information on the packed food product keeping in view the sensitivity of religion and right to information of the Pakistani people, he suggested.

When contacted by *TNS*, Shahid Nazir, Sales and Marketing Manager Artal Foods Pakistan, now taken over by K&N, said that his

trade.

Faisal Mansoor, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Artal Foods said that the real issue was that it was impossible for any Chinese company to provide chicken meat at such a low price to Pakistani consumers. "Either the Chinese government is giving heavy subsidy to its exporters or Chinese firms are dumping their products in local markets. No one knows whether the meat is halal or haram, that of a dead bird or not, hygienic or unhygienic," he stated.

Dr Asif Rafiq, Veterinary Officer at Punjab Livestock