

CCP terms meat price mechanism ineffective in country

Recommends regulatory mechanism for price, quality; govt-run slaughterhouses in dilapidated condition and animal slaughtering manually done under unhygienic conditions; study reveals over one million animals smuggled to Afghanistan, Iran

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Just ahead of Eidul Azha, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has termed price mechanism of meat as ineffective in the whole country and recommended that the regulatory mechanism for both price and quality should be improved.

The CCP in its conducted study on meat industry also revealed that there were estimates that around one million animals were smuggled to Afghanistan and Iran on per annum basis.

The study states that the meat price control mechanism is not effective. If the government decides to deregulate meat prices the problem of profiteering and hoarding will increase so meat price regulation is used as deterrence

against this practice. This price control mechanism, however, needs to be made more effective and efficient. The price Competition Policy and Research Department Competition Commission of Pakistan which control mechanism to regulate meat prices at district level is ineffective and inefficient.

Since meat is an essential commodity the government regulates its prices. Meat prices are set in every six months or 12 months, but remain unregulated in the interim period. It is recommended that the regulatory mechanism for both price and quality should be improved and pricing of meat should be on the basis of meat quality and grading.

Meat prices for urban and rural apply to all retailers whether in the formal or informal sector. These prices, how-

ever, in the formal and the informal sector differ by a large scale. The district food authorities have a mechanism of fining where the retailers of meat charge exorbitant profits. These fines range from Rs1000 to Rs100,000 however charging higher than the regulated meat price by the district authorities is a common practice by the meat retailers.

The price regulation of the meat sold in formal sector is weak as a result the meat prices are higher. Meat quality is improved nonetheless to make the meat industry more efficient and competitive price monitoring, as a consequence, needs to be more vigorous to ensure availability of quality meat at affordable prices for the consumers.

The government-run slaughterhouses are in dilapidated condition and animal slaughter-

ing is manually done under unhygienic conditions which pose severe consequences to human health. Conditions of slaughterhouses in the private sector are better therefore it is recommended there should be public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses. This will bring efficiency as well as improve animal slaughtering.

There is no slaughterhouse in Islamabad and the meat butchers/retailers use the local government slaughterhouses of Rawalpindi which are overburdened and unable to meet the growing animal slaughtering of the two cities.

These slaughterhouses of Rawalpindi are understaffed to check the health of animals before animal slaughtering and to ensure hygiene while handling the meat animals and the animal waste. It is, therefore, rec-

ommended that Islamabad should have an independent slaughterhouse to meet the growing needs of the capital city.

There are financial constraints to enter this sector, therefore, easy access to credit must be available to farmers at small as well as at corporate level to improve livestock production and enhance quality meat availability in the meat market.

Training of farmers is vital to increase per animal meat production. The government should train farmers at grass-roots level where most of the meat production takes place. Small workshop should be conducted in villages to train rural farmers about animal breeding, disease control, feed and fodder and animal sale.

Survey to Rawalpindi-Islamabad slaughterhouse: one vet-

erinary doctor also working as general manager of the slaughterhouse, to check the health of around 500-600 animals before slaughtering. The Rawalpindi-Islamabad Slaughterhouse at Sihala built in 1967 over 17-acre land is in a dilapidated condition and has total staff of 13.

One main issue in the meat sector still remains the accessibility of farmers to the markets. Animal markets across Pakistan are limited in number and located at extended distances from the farmers who are discouraged to bring their animals to these mandis (markets). Farmers, therefore, sell their animals at low prices to the middlemen who in turn bring them to animal mandis for sale and sell them at high profit margins. To make meat market more competitive the numbers of animal markets need to be increased so that farmers can

easily access them and get their due reward from the sale of these meat animals. This will result in lower profits of the middlemen and higher rewards for the farmers and at the same time meat prices will become more competitive as increased number of farmers will bring their animals for sale to markets.

Export of animals including live animals and animal meat is done and its permit is given by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR). However, smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is a common problem. Export of animals should be limited as meat is an essential food item and the government must ensure it availability at affordable price to domestic consumers. This is an issue highlighted by the association of meat retailers for higher domestic meat prices.

CCP releases meat sector report for public comments

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD—The Competition Commission of Pakistan has released a study on the meat sector in Pakistan for public comments, covering issues such as price monitoring and quality of meat and also exploring the growth potential of the sector. According to the CCP press statement issued here, the study has been conducted as part of the assessments the CCP undertakes to understand competition issues in sectors that have implications for consumers.

Meat is one of the heaviest weighed essential food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the livestock sector fulfills the country's meat, milk and poultry demand, it added. CCP in its report has identified ineffective price and quality monitoring at the district level that result in high price and low quality of meat that affects both urban and rural consumers. Smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is also an issue that affects availability at affordable price to domestic consumers.

Meat production in Pakistan is mostly an unregulated informal activity, it said adding the meat industry is marred with many challenges including the low yield per animal, poor animal feed,

lack of awareness among livestock breeders related to breeds and veterinary care, and disease control. Also, poor slaughtering meth-

“Increasing the accessibility of farmers to the animal markets is essential for providing quality meat to the consumers at reasonable prices.”

ods and lack of accessibility to the Animal Mandis (markets) leads to low quality of meat products and excessive pricing.

The report says that establishing new slaughterhouses and improving facilities at the existing ones is necessary to ensure quality safeguards. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of farm-

ers to the animal markets is essential for providing quality meat to the consumers at reasonable prices. Therefore, CCP recommends a public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses for efficiency and quality and to increase animal mandis so that farmers can easily access them.

CCP also recommends that price setting, which takes place every six to twelve months, needs to be regulated during the interim periods and meat prices should be based on both the quality of the meat and its grading. Another market identified by CCP is the growing international demand for Halal meat and meat products. The demand for Halal meat has been growing globally and Pakistan produces 100 percent Halal meat and export of halal meat and meat products can be a significant source of foreign exchange earnings.

CCP has acknowledged efforts of the government especially the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, which has undertaken certain regulatory measures to encourage livestock sector and for the establishment of value added meat market in the country. Section 28 of the Competition Act empowers CCP to conduct studies for promoting competition in all sectors of commercial economic activity.

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Govt pressurises manufacturers to install safety kits in cars

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All new locally assembled cars are likely to have airbags and immobilizers soon as the government has finally started exerting pressure on auto giants to improve security features.

"After the approval of the new auto policy, we have asked the assemblers to start implementing it, and as a first step, install immobilizers and airbags in every car," a top official of Engineering Development Board told The Nation.

"Toyota agreed, and it has started installing immobilizers in some of the models and promises to install in XLI and GLI as well. But the real resistance came from Suzuki, who went to the court and got a stay," the official added.

It was learnt that immobilizer installation had been requested by law-enforcement agencies, which, will, in their opinion, make the job of shrewd auto thieves a bit difficult.

The idea of putting airbags in tin-made Suzuki Mehran could be a joke to many but EDB officials believe their demand is rational.

"Mehran does not fulfill any standard of a car; its security features, technology, shell, all are obsolete and dangerous. There is no argument about it, but we cannot just close down a 35 years old brand," another official said.

The senior official stressed that unless the company shared its standard vehicle, they could not just pick a car from the market and analyse it technically and stop its production.

With a double-digit negative growth in exports during July 2015-June 2016 in most of the industrial sector, falling under EDB domain, the exports of auto parts and accessories declined by around 29 percent.

A general perception of failure of the department is its weakness in human resource.

The organisation is run by an official of

MP-1, who as per documents, is at par with Grade 22 officer, but appointed initially on contract of 2-3 years, extendable every year. The appointments on MP-Scales are allegedly made on political basis.

According to a rough estimate, there are more than 50 MP-Scale officers in power corridors, most of them retired from military or bureaucracy, who somehow managed to secure lucrative posts, originally introduced for highly skilled professionals from the open market.

The salary of MP-1 is around half-a-million rupees, including all perks.

Many believe that pay cheques of most of these retired officials become fat every year, with a contract renewal, while those who are genuine professionals, linger on the sidelines.

Can a contractual official devise long-term policies and resist temptations offered by the greedy industrialists? Few are interested in the question while very few are willing to answer.

Tariq Ijaz Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, EDB, said his department was doing best to protect the interest of consumers.

But despite optimism and confidence of the CEO, the ground realities could only be described as gloomy.

The car assemblers make obsolete models and sell them at an exorbitant price. They ignore any car safety and emission standards.

Data compiled by the Ministry of Industries, based on the figures given by the car assemblers association, clearly indicates that the assemblers produced less than their installed capacity despite overwhelming demand.

During the year, 2014-15, Pak-Suzuki Motors assembled 76861 cars against the installed capacity of 150,000.

According to official data, during 2014-15, Suzuki assembled 3319 units of Liana, 14142 cultus, 30381 Mehran, 5067 Wagon-R, and 23952 units of Bolan. Honda Atlas assembled 24271, Civic

and City cars against the installed capacity of 50,000 cars per year.

Toyota Indus Motors produced 51392 units of Corolla and Cuore against the installed capacity of 75,000 units. Less production, as compared to demand, results in black marketing.

According to Ministry of Industries documents, SRO 656(1)2006 authorises the import of CKD at concessionary duty of up to 30 percent for cars and localised parts at additional duty (45 percent) applicable from budget for FY 2016-17. Why assemblers have not started manufacturing in the country even after the passage of 35 years, whereas they were bound to start local manufacturing immediately.

Why they are not manufacturing cars as per their capacity; why no assembler in Pakistan has recalled his vehicles; why the Competition Commission of Pakistan does not taken action against the monopoly of car assemblers are the questions which no one is willing to an-

swer in the power corridors.

"When a car plies on roads, it is the mandate of the Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Science and Technology to ensure safety features and make sure that the vehicles are up to date in terms of technology. And, it is the job of Ministry of Climate Change to inspect that the vehicles possess the latest technology to reduce air pollution, but no one takes responsibility," an official of EDB said.

During background interviews, it was learnt that car manufacturers were resisting the government demands as they had a huge inventory in their stores.

"They have complete stock knock-down kits, or in simple words, they have a huge inventory of cars in pieces, which can be assembled into cars in no time. They may comply with the demand for installing immobilizers and airbags after finishing the current stock, and by next year, most of the new cars will have both," according to an industry insider.

غیر متننگرانی گوشت، مہنگا اور غیر معیاری ہونے کی بڑی کمی وجہ قرار

مویشیوں کی اسمگلنگ، ذبح کے فرسودہ طریقے اور منڈیوں تک رسائی سے محرومی بھی غیر معیاری و مہنگے گوشت کی وجہ ہیں، مسابقتی کمیشن جانوروں کی خراب غذا، کم پیداوار، بریڈرز میں افزائش نسل اور بیماریاں روکنے سے آگے کا فقدان بڑے چیلنجز ہیں، میٹ سیلٹ پر تحقیقی رپورٹ جاری اعلیٰ معیار و مناسب دام کیلئے نجی سرکاری شراکت، نئی منڈیاں و مذبح خانے قائم، بہتر سہولتوں اور نرخ معیار و درجہ بندی سے مشروط کرنے کی سفارشات

<p>اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان نے ملک میں صارفین کو غیر معیاری گوشت کی مہنگے داموں فراہمی کی بڑی وجہ ضلعی سطح پر نگرانی کے غیر موثر نظام کو قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مویشیوں کی اسمگلنگ، ذبح کے فرسودہ طریقے اور منڈیوں تک فارمز کی رسائی سے محرومی بھی غیر معیاری و مہنگے گوشت کی وجہ ہیں جبکہ جانوروں کی خراب غذا، کم پیداوار، بریڈرز میں افزائش نسل اور بیماریاں روکنے سے آگے کا فقدان بڑے چیلنجز ہیں، صارفین کو اعلیٰ معیار کا گوشت مناسب دام پر فراہم کرنے کے لیے شعبے میں نئی منڈیاں و مذبح خانے قائم کر کے نجی سرکاری شراکت سے چلانے کے ساتھ بہتر سہولتوں کی فراہمی اور نرخوں کا تعین معیار و درجہ بندی سے مشروط کرنے کی بھی ضرورت ہے۔ مسابقتی کمیشن نے گوشت کے شعبے سے متعلق تحقیقی</p>	<p>رپورٹ گزشتہ روز عوامی رائے جاننے کے لیے جاری کردی۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا کہ ضلعی سطح پر قیمتوں اور معیار کی مانیٹرنگ کے لیے ناکافی اور غیر موثر اقدامات کی وجہ سے دیہی اور شہری علاقوں میں گوشت کا معیار کم اور قیمتیں بڑھتی جا رہی ہیں، جانوروں کی بڑی تعداد میں افغانستان کو غیر قانونی برآمد اور اس کے نتیجے میں ملکی سطح پر گوشت کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ بھی صارفین کیلئے بڑا مسئلہ ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان میں گوشت کا پیداواری شعبہ زیادہ تر غیر رسمی اور بے قاعدہ ہے، اس شعبے کو بہتر سی مشکلات کا سامنا ہے، نئی جانور گوشت کی کم مقدار، جانوروں کی غذا کا کم معیار، موسمی پالنے والوں کا جانوروں کی نسل بڑھانے اور ان کی بیماریوں پر قابو پانے کے متعلق ناکافی علم شعبے کے بڑے چیلنجز ہیں، جانوروں کو ذبح کرنے کے پرانے فرسودہ</p>	<p>منڈیوں کے قیام کا بندوبست کیا جائے تاکہ کسانوں کی ان منڈیوں تک آسان رسائی ممکن ہو سکے۔ رپورٹ میں تجویز کیا گیا کہ قیمتوں کا تعین جو عام طور پر ہر 6 تا 12 ماہ بعد کیا جاتا ہے کو درمیانی عرصے میں ریگولٹ کیا جائے اور نرخ معیار اور درجے کے مطابق مقرر کیے جائیں۔ مسابقتی کمیشن نے حلال گوشت کی بڑھتی ہوئی بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ کی بھی نشاندہی کی اور کہا کہ پاکستان میں 100 فیصد حلال گوشت کی پیداوار ہوتی ہے اور اس کی برآمد غیر ملکی ز مبادلہ میں اضافے کا سبب بن سکتی ہے۔</p>
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دیہا اور شہر میں گوشت کا معیار کم اور قیمت بڑھتی جا رہی ہے مسابقتی

افغانستان کو جانوروں کی بڑی تعداد میں غیر قانونی برآمد کے نتیجے میں گوشت کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ، ذبح کرنے اور منڈیوں تک رسائی کے طریقے فرسودہ

ذبح خانوں کی کارکردگی اور معیار بڑھانے کے ساتھ نئی منڈیوں کا قیام، قیمتیں وقتاً فوقتاً ریگولیٹ کی جائیں: تحقیقی رپورٹ عوامی آراء کیلئے جاری

کراچی (کامرس رپورٹر) مسابقتی کمیشن نے گوشت کے شعبہ پر اپنی تحقیقی رپورٹ عوامی رائے جاننے کے لیے جاری کر دی ہے جس میں گوشت کی قیمتوں کی مانیٹرنگ، گوشت کے معیار اور اس شعبہ میں ترقی کے مواقع جیسے معاملات پر تفصیلی روشنی ڈالی گئی ہے۔ مسابقتی کمیشن مختلف شعبوں پر مسابقتی مسائل اور صارفین پر ان کے اثرات جاننے کے لیے تحقیقی رپورٹ جاری کرتا ہے۔ کنزیومر پرائس انڈیکس میں شامل انتہائی ضروری غذائی اشیاء کی فہرست میں گوشت نہایت اہم عنصر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ لائیو سٹاک کا شعبہ ملک کی گوشت، دودھ اور پولٹری مصنوعات کی طلب کو پورا کرتا ہے۔ کمیشن نے اس رپورٹ میں ضلعی سطح پر قیمتوں اور معیار کی مانیٹرنگ کے لیے ناکافی اور غیر موثر اقدامات کی نشان دہی کی ہے جس کے نتیجے میں دیہی اور شہری علاقوں میں گوشت کا معیار کم اور قیمتیں بڑھتی جا رہی ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ جانوروں کی بڑی تعداد میں افغانستان کو غیر قانونی برآمد اور اس کے نتیجے میں ملکی سطح پر گوشت کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ بھی صارفین کے لیے اہم مسئلہ ہے۔ پاکستان میں گوشت فراہم کرنے کا شعبہ زیادہ تر غیر رسمی اور بے قاعدہ طریقہ پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ اس شعبے کو بہت سی مشکلات کا سامنا ہے جیسا کہ نئی جانور گوشت کی کم مقدار، جانوروں کی غذا کا کم معیار اور

موشی پالنے والوں کا جانوروں کی نسل بڑھانے اور ان کی بیماریوں پر قابو پانے کے متعلق کم اور ناکافی علم رکھتے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ جانوروں کو ذبح کرنے کے پرانے فرسودہ طریقے اور جانوروں کی منڈیوں تک ان کی رسائی میں مشکلات بھی غیر معیاری اور مہنگے گوشت کی وجوہات ہیں۔ نئے ذبح خانوں کا قیام اور موجودہ ذبح خانوں میں سہولیات کی فراہمی اور کسانوں کی جانوروں کی منڈیوں تک آسان رسائی سے صارفین کو معیاری گوشت کی معقول قیمتوں پر فراہمی اور حفاظتی معیار کو بہتر بنایا جا سکتا ہے۔ اس لیے سی سی پی پبلک پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ کی تجویز دے رہا ہے کہ حکومتی ذبح خانوں کی کارکردگی اور معیار کو بڑھایا جائے اور نئی جانوروں کی منڈیوں کے قیام کا بندوبست کیا جائے تاکہ کسانوں کی ان منڈیوں تک آسان رسائی ممکن ہو سکے۔ سی سی پی نے یہ بھی تجویز کیا کہ قیمتوں کا تعین جو کہ عام طور پر ہر چھ ماہ یا بارہ ماہ بعد کیا جاتا ہے، اس کو درمیانی عرصے میں بھی ریگولیٹ کیا جائے اور گوشت کی قیمتوں کا تعین ان کے معیار اور درجہ کے مطابق کیا جائے۔ سی سی پی نے حلال گوشت کی بروقتی ہوئی بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ کی بھی نشان دہی کی ہے۔ پاکستان میں سو فیصد حلال گوشت پایا جاتا ہے اور اس کی برآمد غیر ملکی زرمبادلہ میں اضافے کا سبب بن سکتی ہے۔



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ملک بھر میں معیاری گوشت کی قیمتوں اور معیار کی مانیٹرنگ کا کوئی نظام نہیں، جانوروں کی بڑی تعداد غیر قانونی طریقے سے افغانستان برآمد ہو رہی ہے، حکومت پورے نظام کو ریگولیٹ کرے: رپورٹ

ضلعی سطح پر قیمتوں اور معیار کی مانیٹرنگ کا کوئی نظام نہیں، جانوروں کی بڑی تعداد غیر قانونی طریقے سے افغانستان برآمد ہو رہی ہے، حکومت پورے نظام کو ریگولیٹ کرے: رپورٹ

طور پر ہر چھ ماہ یا بارہ ماہ بعد کیا جاتا ہے، اس کو درمیانی عرصے میں بھی ریگولیٹ کیا جائے اور گوشت کی قیمتوں کا تعین ان کے معیار اور درجہ کے مطابق کیا جائے۔ سی سی ٹی نے حلال گوشت کی بڑھتی ہوئی بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ کی بھی نشان دہی کی ہے۔ پاکستان میں سو فیصد حلال گوشت پایا جاتا ہے اور اس کی برآمد غیر ملکی زرمبادلہ میں اضافے کا سبب بن سکتی ہے۔

کرنے کے پرانے فرسودہ طریقے اور جانوروں کی منڈیوں تک ان کی رسائی میں مشکلات بھی غیر معیاری اور مینکے گوشت کی وجوہات ہیں۔ سی سی ٹی کا کہنا ہے کہ حکومتی مذبح خانوں کی کارکردگی اور معیار کو بڑھایا جائے اور نئی منڈیوں کے قیام کا بندوبست کیا جائے تاکہ کسانوں کی ان منڈیوں تک آسان رسائی ممکن ہو سکے۔ سی سی ٹی نے یہ بھی تجویز کیا کہ قیمتوں کا تعین جو کہ عام

نشان دہی کی ہے جس کے نتیجے میں دیہی اور شہری علاقوں میں گوشت کا معیار کم اور قیمتیں بڑھتی جا رہی ہیں، اس کے علاوہ جانوروں کی بڑی تعداد میں افغانستان کو غیر قانونی برآمد اور اس کے نتیجے میں ملکی سطح پر گوشت کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ بھی صارفین کے لیے اہم مسئلہ ہے۔ پاکستان میں گوشت فراہم کرنے والا شعبہ زیادہ تر غیر رسمی اور بے قاعدہ طریقہ پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ جانوروں کو ذبح

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان نے گوشت کے شعبہ پر اپنی تحقیقی رپورٹ عوامی رائے جاننے کے لیے جاری کر دی ہے جس میں گوشت کی قیمتوں کی مانیٹرنگ، گوشت کے معیار اور اس شعبہ میں ترقی کے مواقعوں جیسے معاملات پر تفصیلی روشنی ڈالی گئی ہے۔ سی سی ٹی نے اس رپورٹ میں ضلعی سطح پر قیمتوں اور معیار کی مانیٹرنگ کے لیے ناکافی اور غیر موثر اقدامات کی

CCP releases comprehensive study on meat sector

RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Wednesday released a comprehensive study on the meat sector in Pakistan for public comments, covering issues such as price monitoring and quality of meat and also exploring the growth potential of the sector.

The CCP has recommended limited export of animals, quality meat availability be enforced by district Livestock departments, public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses, an independent slaughterhouse for Islamabad, increase in numbers of animal Mandis, monitoring of informal meat sector through advocacy measures by district governments and improved regulatory mechanism for both price and quality of meat and pricing of meat on the basis of meat quality and grading.

The study has been conducted as part of the assessments the CCP undertakes to understand competition issues in sectors that have implications for consumers. Meat is one of the heaviest weighed essential food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The livestock sector fulfils the country's meat, milk and poultry demand.

CCP in its report identified ineffective price and quality monitoring at the district level that result in high price and low quality of meat that affects both urban and rural consumers. Smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is also an issue that affects availability at affordable price to domestic consumers.

The report says that establishing new slaughterhouses and improving facilities at the existing ones is necessary to ensure quality safeguards. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of farmers to the Animal Mandis is essential for providing quality meat to the consumers at reasonable prices.

Secondly, meat prices for urban and rural apply to all retailers whether in the formal or informal sector. These prices, however, in the formal and the informal sector differ by a large scale. The district food authorities have a mechanism of fining where the retailers of meat charge exorbitant profits. These fines range from Rs 1000 to Rs 100,000, however, charging higher than the regulated meat price by the district authorities is a common practice by the meat retailers. The price regulation of the meat sold in formal sector is weak as a result the meat prices are higher. Meat quality is improved nonetheless to make the meat industry more efficient and competitive price monitoring, as a consequence, needs to be more vigorous to ensure availability of quality meat at affordable prices for the consumers.

Thirdly, the government runs slaughterhouses are in dilapidated condition and animal slaughtering is manually done under unhygienic conditions which pose severe consequences to the human health. Conditions of slaughterhouses in the private sector are better therefore it is recommended there should be public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses. This will bring efficiency as well as improvement in animal slaughtering.

Fourthly, there is no slaughterhouse in Islamabad and the meat butchers/retailers use the local government slaughterhouses of Rawalpindi which are overburdened and unable to meet the growing animal slaughtering of the two cities. These slaughterhouses of Rawalpindi are understaffed to check the health of animals before animal slaughtering and to ensure hygiene while handling the meat animals and the animal waste. It is therefore recommended that Islamabad should have an independent slaughterhouse to meet the growing needs of the capital

city. Slaughtering in neighbouring Afghanistan is a common problem. Export of animals should be limited as meat is an essential food item and the government must ensure it availability at affordable price to domestic consumers. This is an issue highlighted by the association of meat retailers for higher domestic meat prices.

Eight, meat quality which is sold in domestic market is a key issue that needs attention of the district livestock office comprising of veterinary doctors and health officials. They have the technical expertise to check the problems of water mixing, meat of under age, dead and Haram animals. Meat is an essential food item and therefore much attention is needed to enforce quality meat availability. The district livestock departments therefore need to be more efficient and become more effective.

Ninth, the research on the meat industry shows that consumers lack access of information about meat quality and meat prices. And as a result they cannot make informed choices. There is no information to consumers in the informal meat market about animal health, its slaughtering, meat quality, its expiry and variation in price compared to the regulated price by district government. It is recommended that district governments address this issue by monitoring informal meat sector more robustly and through advocacy measures in Print and Electronic Media. This will enable consumers to make better choices and as a result improve meat production, slaughtering and its pricing mechanism.

It has been found from research that information failure exists in informal meat sector and, as a result, consumers cannot make rational decisions. There is efficiency loss in the market as there is misallocation of scarce resources due to which consumers pay more and farmers get less in the market. In

Therefore, CCP recommends a public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses for efficiency and quality and to increase animal mandis so that farmers can easily access them. The CCP also recommends that price setting, which takes place every six to twelve months, needs to be regulated during the interim periods and meat prices should be based on both the quality of the meat and its grading.

Another market identified by the CCP is the growing international demand for Halal meat and meat products. The demand for Halal meat has been growing globally. Pakistan produces 100 percent Halal meat and export of Halal meat and meat products can be a significant source of foreign exchange earnings.

In the light of this study conducted on meat industry, the CCP recommendations are proposed to improve meat value chain. Firstly, food prices of essential items are regulated and meat is one of them. However, the meat price control mechanism is not effective. If the government decides to deregulate meat prices the problem of profiteering and hoarding will increase so meat price regulation is used as deterrence against this practice. This price control mechanism, however, needs to be made more effective and efficient. The price control mechanism to regulate meat prices at district level is ineffective and inefficient. Since meat is an essential commodity, the government regulates its prices. Meat prices are set every six months or 12 months, but remain unregulated in the interim period. It is recommended that the regulatory mechanism for both price and quality should be improved and pricing of meat should be on the basis of meat quality and grading.

growing needs of the capital city. There are financial constraints to enter this sector therefore easy access to credit must be available to the farmers at small as well as at corporate level to improve livestock production and enhance quality meat availability in the meat market.

Fifthly, training of farmers is vital to increase per animal meat production. The government should train farmers at grass-roots level where most of the meat production takes place. Small workshops should be conducted in villages to train rural farmers about animal breeding, disease control, feed and fodder and animal sale.

Sixthly, one main issue in the meat sector still remains the accessibility of farmers to the mandis. Animal mandis across Pakistan are limited in number and located at extended distances from the farmers who are discouraged to bring their animals to these mandis. Farmers therefore sell their animals at low prices to the middlemen who in turn bring them to animal mandis for sale and sell them at high profit margins. To make meat market more competitive the numbers of animal mandis need to be increased so that farmers can easily access them and get their due reward from the sale of these meat animals. This will result in lower profits of the middlemen and higher rewards for the farmers and at the same time meat prices will become more competitive as increased number of farmers will bring their animals for sale to mandis.

Seventhly, the CCP recommended that export of animals including live animals and animal meat is done and its permit is given by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR). However, smuggling of animals to neigh-

ers get less in the market. In meat market information failure exists in the form of asymmetric information and moral hazard. The CCP recommended that the government should ensure that information failure is reduced or eliminated in meat market. The supply of information in meat market can be increased if the government asks the meat retailers to provide accurate information about their meat products. Information can also be improved through public broadcasts on meat market so consumers can make rational decisions. It added that the meat prices are regulated by the district authorities who set the prices by market survey and consultations with the stakeholders. The mechanism of price control of meat is ineffective and inadequate. Market lacks the check and balance due to which meat retailer and butchers sell the meat at increased prices and exploit the consumer interest by enticing excessive profit which ultimately results in increase of meat prices. The packaged meat prices are monitored but not regulated. In the domestic market meat animals are sold by their apparent health and quality and not on the basis of live weight which causes losses to the farmers. At most of the slaughterhouses, animal slaughtering is done under unhygienic conditions, there is use of unsterilized instruments and no temperature control. Slaughtered animals are transported without transportation chillers, no check on hygiene and often the meat is not fit for human consumption.

CCP has acknowledged efforts of the government especially the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, which undertook certain regulatory measures to encourage livestock sector and for the establishment of value added meat market in the country.

Halal meat export a potential opportunity

CCP releases meat sector report for public comments

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday released a study on the meat sector in Pakistan for public comments, covering issues such as price monitoring and quality of meat and also exploring the growth potential of the sector. A

and rural consumers. Smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is also an issue that affects availability at affordable price to domestic consumers.

Meat production in Pakistan is mostly an unregulated informal activity. The meat industry is marred with many challenges including the low yield per animal, poor animal

essential for providing quality meat to consumers at reasonable prices. Therefore, CCP recommends a public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses for efficiency and quality and to increase animal mandis so that farmers can easily access them.

CCP also recommends that price setting, which takes place every six to twelve months, needs to be regulated during the interim periods and meat prices should be based on both the quality of the meat and its grading. Another market identified by CCP is the growing international demand for Halal meat and meat products. The demand for Halal meat has been growing globally. Pakistan produces 100 percent Halal meat and export of halal meat and meat products can be a significant source of foreign exchange earnings.

CCP has acknowledged efforts of the Government, especially the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, which has undertaken certain regulatory measures to encourage livestock sector and for the establishment of value added meat market in the country. Section 28 of the Competition Act empowers CCP to conduct studies for promoting competition in all sectors of commercial economic activity. The study on meat sector is available on the Commission's website, www.cc.gov.pk.



study has been conducted as part of the assessments the CCP undertakes to understand competition issues in sectors that have implications for consumers. Meat is one of the heaviest weighed essential food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The livestock sector fulfils the country's meat, milk and poultry demand.

CCP in its report has identified ineffective price and quality monitoring at the district level that result in high price and low quality of meat that affects both urban

and rural consumers. Smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is also an issue that affects availability at affordable price to domestic consumers. Meat production in Pakistan is mostly an unregulated informal activity. The meat industry is marred with many challenges including the low yield per animal, poor animal

feed, lack of awareness among livestock breeders related to breeds and veterinary care, and disease control. Also, poor slaughtering methods and lack of accessibility to the Animal Mandis (markets) leads to low quality of meat products and excessive pricing. The report says that establishing new slaughterhouses and improving facilities at the existing ones is necessary to ensure quality safeguards. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of farmers to the Animal Mandis is

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‘Consumers buying low-quality, expensive meat’

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: Consumers are buying low-quality meat at high prices, primarily due to lack of regulatory mechanism in this field, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) said on Wednesday as it released a report on the meat sector and sought public comments.

Meat is one of the heaviest-weighted essential food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks prices of 481 commodities every month in the urban centres.

The CCP report covers issues such as price monitoring and quality of meat, also exploring the growth potential of the sector.

The commission has identified ineffective price and quality monitoring at the district level which results in expensive, low-quality meat for both urban and rural consumers.

It also said that smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is also an issue that affects availability at affordable price to domestic consumers.

The study has been conducted as part of the assessments the CCP undertakes to understand competition issues in sectors that have implications for consumers.

Meat production in Pakistan is mostly an unregulated informal activity and the meat industry is marred with many challenges including the low yield per animal, poor animal feed, lack of awareness among livestock breeders related to breeds and veterinary care, and disease control.

Poor slaughtering methods and lack of accessibility to the animal markets leads to low quality of meat products and excessive pricing.

The report says that establishing new slaughterhouses and improving facilities at the existing ones is necessary to ensure quality safeguards. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of farmers to the animal *mandis* is essential for providing quality meat to the consumers at reasonable prices.

Therefore, the CCP recommends a public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses for efficiency and quality and to increase animal *mandis* so that farmers can easily access them.

11 cement companies fined Rs 6,700 crore in India

News Desk

LAHORE: Competition Commission on Wednesday imposed more than Rs 6,700 crore penalty on 11 cement companies, including ACC and Binani, for cartelisation, reports Press Trust of India.

Apart from penalising the Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA), the fair trade regulator has directed all the entities to "cease and desist" from indulging in any activity relating to agreement, understanding or arrangement on prices, production and supply of cement in the market.

In a release, Competition Commission of India (CCI) said Rs 6,715-crore penalty has been imposed on 11 cement companies and the CMA.

The latest order has been passed by the watchdog following directions issued by the Competition Appellate Tribunal (Compat), which had remanded the matter involving the cement companies to CCI for passing fresh order. The tribunal had also set aside fine on the 10 cement firms imposed earlier.

A fine of Rs 1,147.59 crore has been imposed on ACC, while penalties on Jaiprakash Associates Ltd and Ultratech are Rs 1,323.60 crore and Rs 1,175.49 crore, respectively.

The fines on other companies are Rs 274.02 crore (Century), Rs 187.48 crore (India Cements), Rs 128.54 crore (J K Cements), Rs 490.01 crore (Lafarge), Rs 258.63 crore (Ramco), ACL (Rs 1,163.91 crore) and Binani (Rs 167.32 crore), according to the release. CMA faces a fine of Rs 0.73 crore.

Penalising the companies, CCI said the actions of the companies and the CMA are not only detrimental to the interests of consumers, but also to the whole economy as cement is a critical input in construction and infrastructure industry and

vital for the economic development.

Through a separate order, the regulator has slapped Rs 397.51 crore fine on Shree Cement Ltd, for unfair business practices.

According to CCI, the cement companies used the CMA platform and shared details relating to prices, capacity utilisation, production and dispatch and thereby restricted production and supplies in the market.

It was also found that the companies were acting in "concert in fixing prices of cement" which contravenes competition norms.

Among others, CMA has been asked to disengage and disassociate itself from collecting wholesale and retail prices through member cement companies or otherwise.

The association has also been restrained from collecting and circulating the details relating to production and dispatch by cement companies.

Highlighting the role of trade associations in promoting the interests of their members and the industry, CCI said cement companies were interacting using the platform made available by CMA.

"Such interactions have been found to have transgressed the limits in sharing of information and extended to discussions on cost, prices, production and capacities, thereby, facilitating the enterprises to determine prices and production in a concerted and collusive manner, than in a competitive manner," the release said.

Further, the watchdog cautioned that all those who participate in association activities, whether as a member or an executive or manager or employee, have to be sensitive to "the discussions not transgressing advertently or otherwise into anti-trust behaviour or practices".

CCP releases meat sector report for public comments

ISLAMABAD, August 31: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Wednesday released a study on the meat sector in Pakistan for public comments, covering issues such as price monitoring and quality of meat and also exploring the growth potential of the sector.

The study has been conducted as part of the assessments the CCP undertakes to understand competition issues in sectors that have implications for consumers. Meat is one of the heaviest

weighed essential food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The livestock sector fulfils the country's meat, milk and poultry demand.

CCP in its report has identified ineffective price and quality monitoring at the district level that result in high price and low quality of meat that affects both urban and rural consumers. Smuggling of animals to neighbouring Afghanistan is also an issue that affects availability at affordable price to domestic consumers.

Meat production in Pakistan is mostly an unregulated informal activity. The meat industry is marred with many challenges including the low yield per animal, poor animal feed, lack of awareness among livestock breeders related to breeds and veterinary care, and disease control. Also, poor slaughtering methods and lack of accessibility to the Animal Mandis (markets) leads to low quality of meat products and excessive pricing. - Agencies

CCP releases meat sector report for public comments

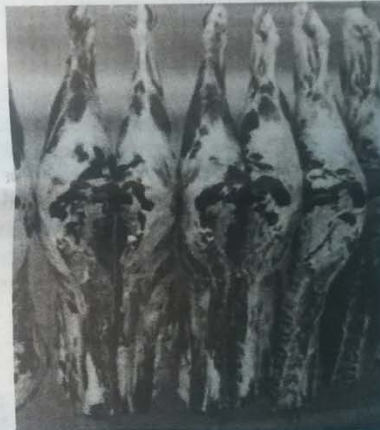
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STAFF REPORT

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The report says that establishing new slaughterhouses and improving facilities at the existing ones is necessary to ensure quality safeguards. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of farmers to the animal mandis is essential for providing quality meat to the consumers at reasonable prices. Therefore, the CCP recommends a public-private partnership to run the government slaughterhouses

for efficiency and quality and to increase animal mandis, so that farmers can easily access them.

The CCP also recommends that price setting, which takes place every six to 12 months, needs to be regulated during the interim periods and meat prices should be based on both the quality of the meat and its grading.

Another market identified by the CCP is the growing international demand for halal meat and meat products. The demand for halal meat has been growing globally. Pakistan produces 100 per cent halal meat and export of halal meat and meat products can be a significant source of foreign exchange earnings.

The CCP has acknowledged efforts of the government, especially the ministry of national food security and research, which has undertaken certain regulatory measures to encourage livestock sector and for the establishment of value added meat market in the country.

Section 28 of the Competition Act empowers the CCP to conduct studies for promoting competition in all sectors of commercial economic activity. The study on meat sector is available on the commission's website.

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CCP releases meat sector report for public comments

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OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

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EXPLORING POTENTIAL

CCP shares study on meat sector

ISLAMABAD. The Competition Commission of Pakistan has released a study on the meat sector in Pakistan for public comments, covering issues such as price monitoring and quality of meat and also exploring the growth potential of the sector. According to the CCP press statement, the study has been conducted as part of the assessments the CCP undertakes to understand competition issues in sectors that have implications for consumers. Meat is one of the heaviest weighed essential food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the livestock sector fulfills the country's meat, milk and poultry demand, it added. CCP in its report identified ineffective price and quality monitoring at the district level that result in high price and low quality of meat that affects both urban and rural consumers. APP



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سبق 7 مسابقتی کمیشن

لیے ناکافی اور غیر موثر اقدامات کی نشان دہی کی ہے جس کے نتیجے میں دیہی اور شہری علاقوں میں گوشت کا معیار کم اور قیمتیں بڑھتی جا رہی ہیں۔ رپورٹ میں یہ اکتشاف کیا گیا ہے کہ سالانہ 10 لاکھ جانور افغانستان اور ایران سے منگائے جاتے ہیں، غیر قانونی برآمد کے نتیجے میں ملکی سطح پر گوشت کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ بھی صارفین کے لیے اہم مسئلہ ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق گوشت کا پرائس کنٹرول میکنزم غیر موثر ہے، اگر حکومت گوشت کی قیمتوں کو ڈی ریگولیٹ کرنے کا فیصلہ کرتی ہے تو اس سے منافع خوری اور ذخیرہ اندوزی بڑھ جائے گی اس لئے پرائس کنٹرول میکنزم کو موثر بنانے کی ضرورت ہے، رپورٹ میں سفارش کی گئی ہے کہ گوشت کا معیار اور قیمت دونوں کے لئے ریگولیٹری میکنزم کو بہتر بنا کر گوشت کی قیمتیں، معیار اور گریڈنگ کے مطابق مقرر کی جائیں، حکومت کے زیر انتظام ذبح خانوں کی حالت ٹھیک نہیں، جہاں جانوروں کو غیر صحت مندانہ ماحول میں ذبح کیا جاتا ہے جس سے انسانی صحت پر مضر اثرات پڑنے کا خطرہ ہے۔ سچی شے میں ذبح خانوں کی حالت بہتر ہے اس لئے سرکاری اور نجی اشتراک میں ذبح خانے چلانے کی سفارش کی جاتی ہے، اسلام آباد میں کوئی ذبح خانہ موجود نہیں اور دار الحکومت میں گوشت بیچنے والے راولپنڈی کے ذبح خانے استعمال کرتے ہیں، اس سے بوجھ بڑھ جاتا ہے اور راولپنڈی کے ذبح خانے دونوں شہروں کی ضروریات پوری نہیں کر سکتے۔ راولپنڈی کے ذبح خانوں میں سٹاف کی کمی ہے جسکی وجہ سے جانوروں کی صحت کو چیک نہیں کیا جاسکتا، اس لئے سفارش کی جاتی ہے کہ دار الحکومت میں گوشت کی بڑھتی ہوئی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کیلئے اسلام آباد میں الگ ذبح خانہ کھولا جائے۔ پاکستان میں گوشت فراہم کرنے کا شعبہ زیادہ تر غیر رسمی اور بے قاعدہ طریقہ پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ اس شعبے کو بہت سی مشکلات کا سامنا ہے جیسا کہ فی جانور گوشت کی کم مقدار، جانوروں کی غذا کا کم معیار اور مویشی پالنے والوں کا جانوروں کی نسل بڑھانے اور ان کی بیماریوں پر قابو پانے کے متعلق کم اور ناکافی علم رکھتے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ جانوروں کو ذبح کرنے کے پرانے فرسودہ طریقے اور جانوروں کی منڈیوں تک ان کی رسائی میں مشکلات بھی غیر معیاری اور مہنگے گوشت کی وجوہات ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق نئے ذبح خانوں کا قیام اور موجودہ ذبح خانوں میں سہولیات کی فراہمی اور کسانوں کی جانوروں کی منڈیوں تک آسان رسائی سے صارفین کو معیاری گوشت کی معقول قیمتوں پر فراہمی اور حفاظتی معیار کو بہتر بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ سی سی بی نے حلال گوشت کی بڑھتی ہوئی بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ کی بھی نشان دہی کی ہے۔ پاکستان میں سو فیصد حلال گوشت پایا جاتا ہے اور اس کی برآمد غیر ملکی زر مبادلہ میں اضافے کا سبب بن سکتی ہے۔

گوشت کا معیار کم، قیمتیں زیادہ، مانیٹرنگ کے ناکافی اقدامات، مسابقتی کمیشن

رپورٹ میں ریگولیٹری میکنزم، ذبح خانوں کی حالت بہتر بنانے اور جانوروں کی سگنگ روکنے کی سفارشات

اسلام آباد (تویر ہاشمی، مہتاب حیدر) مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان نے گوشت کے شعبہ پر اپنی تحقیقی رپورٹ عوامی رائے جاننے کے لیے جاری کر دی ہے جس میں گوشت کی قیمتوں کی مانیٹرنگ، گوشت کے معیار اور اس شعبہ میں ترقی کے مواقعوں جیسے معاملات پر تفصیلی روشنی ڈالی گئی ہے مسابقتی کمیشن نے اپنی رپورٹ میں ضلعی سطح پر قیمتوں اور معیاری مانیٹرنگ کے باقی صفحہ 6 نمبر 7