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The Issue of Using Gelatin ♦

Gelatin is a new kind of stuff used in many products in modern times. Since it is produced from otherwise illegitimate and non-permitted raw material, the question arises whether its use is Islamically permitted or not? Hence, Gelatin became one of the subject matter of the Fourteenth Seminar of the Fiqh Academy, which provided the following guidance in that regard.

- 4.1 Gelatin is an organic substance, which is a type of protein. It is formed when another protein the Collagen found in the skin and bones of animals undergoes chemical transformation. The substance so obtained takes the form of a different protein, the chemical and medicinal properties of which are absolutely different from that of the Collagen. It is also dissimilar to the Collagen in terms of its color, smell, taste and other characteristics.
- 4.2 In case the substances, which are described as impermissible by Shariah, undergo a complete process of metamorphosis, then the validity of the law does not hold well. The special or basic properties of the substance, by which it has been universally accepted and identified, are the real characteristics and identification of the substance. According to the research undertaken by the scientific experts, Gelatin does not possess the characteristics and properties of the skin and bones of animals, whose Collagen is used to prepare Gelatin. In fact, an altogether new substance is produced which has distinctly different characteristics from its parent substance. Therefore, there is a room for its use.
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- 4.3 In view of differences between the jurists as well as the importance of edible substance, the Seminar earnestly appeals to the Muslim businessmen and traders to prepare Gelatin only from permissible animals using the permissible and clean parts of their body, so that there may be no dubiety over the issue of its permissibility and lawfulness.

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¹ In view of the differences in opinion between the experts, one of the distinguished delegates of the Seminar, Maulana Badrul Hasan Qasmi expressed his preference for avoiding the use of Gelatin, which is obtained from the parts of impermissible animals, as far as possible.