



The third question of Fatwa no. 16816

Q 3: In the market area where vegetables and fruits are sold, traders stuff cartons with paper before packing it with fruits and vegetables so that the buyer is deceived into thinking that the cartons are heavy. The price is paid according to the weight of the carton. When the buyer unpacks the carton, he finds that only a small amount of vegetables or fruit has been put in it. This is common in all market areas. It may be for this reason that we are deprived of rain. Moreover, when newly converts to Islam notice this fraud, they might think that Islam preaches cheating and thus would abandon it. What is the ruling on this?

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A: It is prohibited to stuff things into boxes or containers of items intended for sale for the purpose of cheating the buyer into buying them thinking that they are part of the sold item. This is based on the Hadith in which the Prophet (peace be upon him) says, ("He who deceives us is not of us (is not my follower).")

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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