ORDER SHEET

HIGH COURT OF SINDH CIRCUIT COURT, HYDERABAD

C.P No.D-110 of 2018

DATE	ORDER WITH SIGNATURE OF JUDGE
06.11.2026	For hearing of contempt application Mrs. Razia Ali Zaman, advocate for petitioner(s) Mr. Abdul Hameed Bajwa, advocate for respondent(s) Mr. Allah Bachayo Soomro, Additional A.G. Sindh

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The petition was disposed of on 01.09.2026, with directions to the official respondents to decide the petitioners' application/representation, if filed, within one month in accordance with law. Thereafter, the petitioner filed the instant application alleging non-compliance with the said directions by the alleged contemnors.

Secretary, Energy Department, present in court has submitted that, in compliance with the order dated 08.12.2025, the Department examined the petitioners' applications/representations in consultation with the CEO, Sindh Lakhra Coal Mines Company (SLCMC), and communicated its decisions to the applicants, copies whereof had already been placed on record. He denied the allegations of discriminatory treatment, contending that no former LCDC employee had been appointed on the basis of any previous right or seniority. He further submitted that SLCMC, being an independent corporate entity, conducted recruitment in 2021 through an open advertisement and transparent competitive process under its approved HR policy, wherein former LCDC employees were also afforded an opportunity to compete with candidates from the open market. The appointments were made on fresh contractual terms purely on merit after interviews by a duly constituted Selection Committee. Accordingly, he contended that the directions of this Court stood complied with and prayed for dismissal of the contempt application against respondent No.5.

We have heard learned counsel for the petitioners and learned A.A.G. on the listed contempt application and have examined the available record.

The principal grievance raised through the instant application relates to alleged non-compliance with the directions issued by this Court. However, the Secretary, Energy Department, has placed on record the decision taken on the petitioners' applications/representations and explained the process undertaken by SLCMC regarding recruitment, asserting that the same was conducted through an open and competitive process on merit.

In these circumstances, the material available on record prima facie reflects that the directions of this Court have been acted upon. Any grievance of the petitioners concerning the legality, fairness or alleged discriminatory nature of the recruitment process raises a separate question on merits, which cannot be examined in the present contempt proceedings, particularly when no deliberate or wilful disobedience of the Court's directions is established.

Consequently, no case for initiating contempt proceedings is made out. The instant application is, therefore, disposed of. However, the petitioners shall be at liberty to avail an appropriate remedy, in accordance with law, if they remain aggrieved by the decision of the competent authority based on discrimination.

JUDGE

JUDGE

Karar_Hussain/PS*