

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

PRESENT:

MR. JUSTICE TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI, HCJ
MR. JUSTICE KHILJI ARIF HUSSAIN
MR. JUSTICE SH. AZMAT SAEED

H.R.C. NO. 4925-G OF 2014

(Suo moto taken on the Daily News dated 25.2.2014 regarding diagnostic injections cause cancer)

In Attendance: Mr. Sajid Ilyas Bhatti, DAG
Dr. Javaid Akhtar, D.G. PINSTECH
Mr. Sohail Akram, Sr. Law Officer

Date of Hearing: 03.04.2014

ORDER

TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI, CJ.- Suo moto notice was taken on a news item published in Daily News dated 25.2.2014 to the effect that the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH) has been supplying cancer diagnostic injections allegedly contaminated with undesirable radionuclides that could cause cancer instead of diagnosing it and despite a direction for an enquiry, no action had been taken. Pursuant to the notice issued, the Director General PINSTECH constituted a committee to investigate into the allegations leveled and submit a report. It would be pertinent to refer to the summary of the findings of the said inquiry, which is as under:-

- "i. The committee studied in depth the quality procedures / SOP, visited relevant production facilities and testing Labs, interviewed relevant scientists / technicians as well as went through the record of inspection / acceptance / rejection.*
- ii. The following quality acceptance tiers are functioning at PINSTECH.*
 - a. The Quality Control Group under Incharge Production.*
 - b. Health Physics Laboratories and Quality Assurance Group under DG PINSTECH:-*

The Inquiry Committee thoroughly checked the QC and QA record of all the molybdenum-99 batches produced at PINSTECH and found it in order as per SOP.

- iii. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), being an independent regularity authority and licensor, also conducts random testing which was verified by the Committee.*
- iv. The production facility was installed / commissioned by renowned German scientists and highly qualified Pakistani scientists. The Mo-99 is thus produced according to the international quality standards.*
- v. The feed-backs from various end-user hospitals have been received and confirmed that product is rechecked and qualified by the user. The disqualified product (if any) is not used.*
- vi. The committee has satisfied itself that standard operating procedures for qualification and certifications were not violated. No evidence could be found of any pressure whatsoever from the high ups on the analysts or technicians to alter the quality control results."*

2. In view of the report submitted, it seems the news item was not based on a correct appreciation of the relevant facts. In any case, it has served a purpose i.e. on intervention of the Court, the PINSTECH got the allegations inquired into and the findings referred to above lend credibility to the exercise undertaken by the PINSTECH. In the afore-referred circumstances, the proceedings have fructified and are being disposed of accordingly.

CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDGE

JUDGE

Islamabad, the
3rd of April, 2014
Not Approved For Reporting
Khurram