

News Coverage for Website

Daily Media Brief

Monday , April 14, 2025

CCP News

Express Tribune

LHC to hear automaker's petition on 15th

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has fixed April 15 for hearing a petition filed by Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited, which has challenged the jurisdiction of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) in investigating alleged anti-competitive practices.

According to court documents, the Competition Commission had initiated an inquiry into the automobile sector in November 2018 after taking notice of alleged consumer exploitation, repeated price hikes and unfair sales terms by the leading industry players.

Honda Atlas was also covered in the probe based on suspected violations of Sections 3 and 4 of the Competition Act 2010, which pertain to the abuse of dominance and anti-competitive agreements.

Between 2018 and 2022, the commission issued at least five formal requests to the company, seeking information regarding car production, pricing policies, terms of vehicle booking, imports, vendor arrangements, localisation efforts and other operational data.

Documents show that Honda submitted multiple requests for extension in the deadline for providing complete information. Members of the CCP inquiry team also visited the company's manufacturing facility in July 2019 and March 2021.

In October 2022, the commission issued a detailed information request, seeking disclosure of investments made by Honda Japan and Honda Atlas Cars, pricing structures, dealer circulars, localisation ratios and financial records.

Responding to that, the company raised objections to the legality of the ongoing inquiry. The objections were made formally in an extension request dated December 3, 2022.

In June 2023, Honda filed multiple petitions in the Lahore High Court, including a petition that challenged the CCP's jurisdiction while proceeding with the investigation.

The company argued that trade and industry became provincial subjects following the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, and therefore the federal regulator had no authority to pursue such matters. The court granted an interim stay, halting the inquiry. Since then, more than 15 hearings have been held.

Judicial precedents cited in the documents, including the Supreme Court's judgement in the CCP vs Dalda Foods case, affirm that the Competition Commission has the authority to gather information, monitor markets and initiate inquiries.

The court in that case held that companies were obligated to comply with regulatory directives and should not seek judicial interference before a final order was passed.

At the time the inquiry was initiated, only three auto manufacturers operated in the market. The number has since grown to 13, making the issue of fair competition more pressing.

The court's decision in the case is expected to clarify the scope of the commission's powers and could set a precedent for future enforcement actions in high-stake industries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2539396/lhc-to-hear-automakers-petition-on-15th>

The screenshot shows a newspaper clipping from Business Tribune. The main headline is "LHC to hear automaker's petition on 15th". Below it, a sub-headline reads "Company challenges CCP's jurisdiction in inquiry into anti-competitive practices". The byline is "ZAFAR BHUTTA ISLAMABAD". The article text begins: "The Lahore High Court (LHC) has fixed April 15 for hearing a petition filed by Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited, which has challenged the jurisdiction of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) in investigating alleged anti-competitive practices." The article continues with details about the petition, the CCP's investigation, and the court's decision to grant an interim stay. It also mentions that the court's decision is expected to clarify the scope of the commission's powers and could set a precedent for future enforcement actions in high-stake industries.

Profit by Pakistan Today

LHC to hear Honda Atlas petition challenging CCP's jurisdiction in anti-competition probe.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has scheduled a hearing on April 15 for a petition filed by Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited, which is contesting the jurisdiction of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP)

in an ongoing investigation into alleged anti-competitive practices in the automobile sector, The Express Tribune reported.

The CCP launched the inquiry in November 2018, after noting concerns about consumer exploitation, frequent price hikes, and unfair sales practices by leading players in the auto industry. Honda Atlas was included in the investigation, which focuses on potential violations of Sections 3 and 4 of the Competition Act 2010, addressing abuse of dominance and anti-competitive agreements.

Between 2018 and 2022, the commission issued multiple requests for information from Honda Atlas, covering areas such as car production, pricing policies, vehicle booking terms, imports, vendor arrangements, and localisation efforts.

However, the company sought extensions several times to meet these requests. Additionally, the CCP inquiry team visited Honda's manufacturing facility in July 2019 and March 2021 to gather further data.

In October 2022, the commission issued a detailed request seeking information on investments made by Honda Japan and Honda Atlas, along with financial records, dealer circulars, and pricing structures. According to the news report, Honda Atlas raised legal objections in December 2022, arguing that, following the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, trade and industry were now provincial matters, and thus, the federal regulator lacked authority over the issue.

The automaker filed multiple petitions, including a challenge to the CCP's jurisdiction in the LHC in June 2023. The court granted an interim stay, halting the inquiry, and the matter has since been under review in over 15 hearings.

Legal precedents, such as the Supreme Court's decision in the CCP vs Dalda Foods case, support the CCP's authority to oversee market activities and conduct inquiries. That ruling emphasized the obligation of companies to comply with regulatory directives, indicating that judicial intervention should not be sought before a final decision is made.

At the time of the CCP inquiry's initiation, only three auto manufacturers operated in the market, but the number has since increased to 13, highlighting the growing significance of fair competition in the sector. The LHC's ruling will clarify the extent of the CCP's powers and may set an important precedent for future regulatory actions in high-stakes industries.

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/04/12/lhc-to-hear-honda-atlas-petition-challenging-ccps-jurisdiction-in-anti-competition-probe/>

LHC TO HEAR HONDA ATLAS PETITION CHALLENGING CCP'S JURISDICTION IN ANTI-COMPETITION PROBE

■ HONDA CHALLENGES COMPETITION COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED MARKET VIOLATIONS, CASE TO BE HEARD ON APRIL 15

PROFIT
STAFF REPORT

THE Lahore High Court (LHC) has scheduled a hearing on April 15 for a petition filed by Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited, which is contesting the jurisdiction of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) in an ongoing investigation into alleged anti-competitive practices in the automobile sector, The Express Tribune reported.

The CCP launched the inquiry in November 2018, after noting concerns about consumer exploitation, frequent price hikes, and unfair sales practices by leading players in the auto industry. Honda Atlas was included in the investigation, which focuses on potential violations of Sections 3 and 4 of the Competition Act 2010,

addressing abuse of dominance and anti-competitive agreements.

Between 2018 and 2022, the commission issued multiple requests for information from Honda Atlas, covering areas such as car production, pricing policies, vehicle booking terms, imports, vendor arrangements, and localisation efforts. However, the company sought extensions several times to meet these requests. Additionally, the CCP inquiry team visited Honda's manufacturing facility in July 2019 and March 2021 to gather further data.

In October 2022, the commission issued a detailed request seeking information on investments made by Honda Japan and Honda Atlas, along with financial records, dealer circulars, and pricing structures.

According to the news report, Honda

Atlas raised legal objections in December 2022, arguing that, following the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, trade and industry were now provincial matters, and thus, the federal regulator lacked authority over the issue.

The automaker filed multiple petitions, including a challenge to the CCP's jurisdiction in the LHC in June 2023. The court granted an interim stay, halting the inquiry, and the matter has since been under review in over 15 hearings.

Legal precedents, such as the Supreme Court's decision in the CCP vs Dada Foods case, support the CCP's authority to oversee market activities and conduct inquiries. That ruling emphasized the obligation of companies to comply with regulatory directives, indicating that judicial intervention should not be sought before a final decision is made.



At the time of the CCP inquiry's initiation, only three auto manufacturers operated in the market, but the number has since increased to 13, highlighting the growing significance of fair competition in

the sector.

The LHC's ruling will clarify the extent of the CCP's powers and may set an important precedent for future regulatory actions in high-stakes industries.