

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT JAMMU**

WP(C) No. 3292/2025

Pooja Puri & Ors.

.....Petitioner(s)

Through: Mr. Rahul Pant, Sr. Advocate with
Mr. Anirudh Sharma, Advocate.

Vs

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. & Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

Through: Mr. Rohit Gupta, Advocate.

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAHUL BHARTI, JUDGE

ORDER
(24.11.2025)

01. Heard Mr. Rahul Pant, learned Senior Advocate assisted by Mr. Anirudh Sharma, Advocate appearing for the petitioners.

02. The petitioners are all either SC, ST, Woman who at the relevant point of time reckoned themselves to be the beneficiaries of the Standup India Scheme launched by the Government of India meant for SC, ST & Women in financial empowerment for enabling them to have financial assistance availed from the financial institutions/banks on easy terms and conditions for enabling them to invest their borrowing for self employment/business purposes etc.

03. The petitioners came across with notice inviting e-tender issued by the respondent No. 1-Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the respondent No. 2-Bharat Petroleum Corporation

Limited which also envisaged prospect for Standup India beneficiaries to participate in the tendering process.

04. All the petitioners ventured to come through Standup India window in participating in the bidding process which resulted in issuance of provisional Letter of Acceptance (LOA) issued from the respondents No. 1 & 2's end only to be taken by surprise upon issuance of the impugned communication addressed from the respondents No. 1 & 2's end individually to the petitioners thereby telling them that the provisional letters of acceptance stand withdrawn on account of purported fact that Standup India Scheme came to be closed w.e.f. 31.03.2025 thereby leaving the petitioners in no man's land except to come to this Court through the medium of this petition to salvage their right to continue with their participation in the tendering process.

05. When this Court confronted Mr. Rohit Gupta, Standing Counsel on behalf of the respondents No. 1 & 2 as to how come the petitioners can be left high and dry by withdrawal of the provisional letter of acceptance without extending them option of continuing with their participation in the tendering process but without reference to Standup India Scheme benefit, Mr. Rohit Gupta, learned counsel appearing for the respondents No. 1 & 2 submits that he would get the instructions from the respondents No. 1 & 2's end in this regard without prejudice to the right of the respondents No. 1 & 2 to take position on merits in the writ petition.

06. Let the requisite instructions be reported within a period of next two days.

07. List on **27.11.2025** in continuation.

(RAHUL BHARTI)
JUDGE

JAMMU
24.11.2025
Shivalee

