

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Need to accord 'Navratna' status to Numaligarh Refinery Limited in Assam.**

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR):** Sir, I rise to voice my demand for Numaligarh Refinery Limited in Assam to be elevated from its present category-I mini ratna status to navratna status. This refinery was set up after the historic Assam Accord was signed by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Those who ask what the Congress Party has done for the North-East, they should study their history better. Sir, Numaligarh Refinery Limited has been generating record earnings. Its profit after tax in 2020-21 was Rs. 3,562 crore. It ranked 18<sup>th</sup> amongst all Central Public Sector Enterprises in both gross revenue and net profit. Therefore, I urge you that the Department of Public Enterprises should elevate the status of Numaligarh Refinery Limited to a navratna. The Ministry of Petroleum has already recommended that. Now, NRL should also provide assured employment to those sanitation workers who were used by them during the COVID crisis. Most importantly, given their strategic importance, all oil-fields and oil refineries in the North-East must be protected from external cyber attacks and external Armed Forces' attack because we have seen in the Russia-Ukraine War, how the oil-fields are the first to be attacked by the foreign forces.

Given the external threat that we face from China, I request that all strategic assets, especially oil-fields and oil refineries in the North-East, should be given adequate protection in terms of cyber defence and from our Indian Armed Forces.

Thank you.