

7271 Statement regard- BHADRA 29, 1885 (SAKA) Re: Government 7272
ing working of
Gauhati Refinery
Assurances

On re-commissioning the Kerosene Unit, it was noticed that the water con-
tained at the desired level, i.e. below
0.08 ; thus the entire quantity of
water dissolved in the kerosene was
being constantly and efficiently sepa-
rated of SO₂ was being uniformly main-
tained in the Drying Column. I am glad to re-
port that the operation of the unit has
been successful and the compressors
have given satisfactory performance.
Steps have also been taken to ensure
that all equipment in the unit is put
into perfect physical and operational
condition. Particularly in the recent
work carried out on the overhaul of
the unit, invaluable help has been
given by a large team of Rumanian
Specialists under the able leadership
of the Deputy Minister of Oil of the
Rumanian Government. They have also
arranged for the supply, at their cost,
of the replacement parts and spares
needed.

Product off-take in August 1963
started improving and a daily average
of 44 rail tank wagons were despatched,
in addition to a substantial off-
take by road trucks for local require-
ments. From early September, Rail-
ways have made special efforts to meet
the full wagon requirements of the
refinery. The despatches have in-
creased to 66 wagons per day. During
the first two weeks of this month, over
20,000 tonnes of products had been
despatched, thus registering a sub-
stantial improvement over movements
in August.

With the improvement in the off-
take of products, and with the recom-
missioning of the Kerosene Refining
Unit, it has been possible to operate
the Gauhati Refinery at its full or
nearly full designed capacity, which is
2250 tons per day, from the second
week of August, 1963. I am glad to
assure the House that the Refinery will
henceforward operate satisfactorily
and that products will be available

according to our optimum expecta-
tions.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): This is
also in my constituency. May I seek a
clarification?

In view of the fact that unfortunatel-
y the Gauhati Refinery is facing crisis
after crisis due to operational errors.
May I know whether the hon. Minister
is in a position to give us an assur-
ance that this shall not occur any
more as far as practicable?

Mr. Speaker: Can the Minister
give an assurance on behalf of the
machinery?

12.40 hrs.

RE: GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Before you
take up resumption of yesterday's de-
bate, may I make a request to you in
regard to the assurances that are being
given? One assurance has been given
today, and some others were also given,
in regard to the loss of strategic mate-
rials, border raids, incursions and all
these things. May I suggest that you
may be good enough to direct these
Ministries concerned, including the De-
fence Ministry, to send their respon-
ses to you as soon as they get the in-
formation so that you may make your
choice and communicate, through your
Secretariat, the necessary information
to the Members during the interval.

Mr. Speaker: I shall consider that.

**Shri Ravindra Varma (Thiru-
vella):** May I seek a clarification on
the statement made by the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Ravindra Varma: Thank you, Sir. The Minister said that the damage was due to corrosion. May I know whether there is any truth in the report that this corrosion was caused by the fact that the column and compressors were tested with water instead of kerosene?

Shri Alagesan: I am not in a position to answer that particular question, but obviously I think it should not have been done.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This statement may also be circulated.

12.41 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON NEFA ENQUIRY
AND MOTION RE: OUR DEFENCE
PREPAREDNESS—*Contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion on the statement laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Defence on the 2nd September, 1963, regarding NEFA Enquiry and the motion by Shri Bhakt Darshan and Shri Raghunath Singh. Both are taken together. The time allotted was five hours. 15 minutes have already been taken and so four hours and 45 minutes remain. Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): I wish to make a very humble submission to you with regard to the time allotted to this debate. In view of its importance, I would very much urge with you that the whole of tomorrow be allotted for this. I think it seems to be the consensus of opinion in the House that the matter is too serious to be dealt with in this way—and we will be doing a lot of injustice to those who are concerned with it and we may be giving an impression that we do not take this matter much too seriously. Of course, we are also hard-pressed

for time. But feel that the debate has to spill over to tomorrow, and I request that greater time may be allowed for the debate.

Shri Daji (Indore): I also rise to say a few words in the same connection. Looking to the business that is shown on the Order Paper—the Motion on the public sector undertakings and the discussion on the University Grants Commission report and so on—we would like to be enlightened as to whether we are prepared to continue with these matters tomorrow also and take up the rest on Monday or not.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of sitting on Monday. The House decided that we will sit on Saturday. That is all. So, such amount of business as we can discuss will be taken up.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): Today and tomorrow, we can sit up to 7 O'clock.

Mr. Speaker: If the House wishes.

Shri Daji: My submission is this. You know the motion in regard to public sector undertakings has come up after great difficulty. It is coming up just like an illegitimate child; it has been postponed from session to session. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is coming. But now there is a demand that the time be extended. If the House agrees—

Some Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Shri Daji: We may extend the session by one day.

Mr. Speaker: It is too late now. Many Members might have made their arrangements. It may cause inconvenience.