

foreign lobby functioning. There is the American lobby, the Russian lobby and even mushroom countries have lobbies here. If this Government has any sense of patriotism, if this Government has the backbone or the courage, may I know whether this Government has gone into the activities of these lobbies and embassies in this country who route out these advertisements? If they have done so, may I know what action has been taken during the last 21 years when they have been sleeping like Rip Van Winkle?

SHRI VIDHYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have definitely gone into it and we do keep in touch with these activities. We have also taken the necessary action wherever possible. I think this is not the time to give a catalogue of the action taken during the last 21 years. But, as I explained earlier, we have to work under the law and under the Constitution. Unless we have the power to stop them effectively we cannot do it. That is mainly the crux of the matter otherwise we are always prepared to solve the problem quickly in consultation with hon. Members of the Opposition.

12.24 hrs.

STATEMENTS RE : SECOND OIL
REFINERY IN ASSAM

MR. SPEAKAR : Is Dr. Sen going to make a statement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Sir, I can give some information.

After a week of my assumption of this new office in this new Ministry, in my enthusiasm to make India self-sufficient I had a series of discussions with the Planning Commission. I had been to Dehra Dun to discuss with our scientists in ONGC particularly regarding our sources of crude in Assam.

Sir, my interest in Assam is twofold. I was born in Assam and it was Assam which gave me shelter when I was ex-terminated from the Presidency of Bengal.

I requested Shri D. K. Barua to suggest names of experts to study the feasibility of an additional refinery in Assam. This I did on my own long long ago. I went to Jaipur to study the progress of zinc mining and the zinc smelter. I came yesterday afternoon and found on my table a letter signed by Shri Hem Barua and Shri Dhireswar Kalita informing me that they had decided to stage a hunger-strike in front of the government house that I occupy on the question of the demand made by the people of Assam on the establishment of a second refinery.

I at once wrote to him and to Shri Dhireswar Kalita :

"I have just seen your letter on return from Jaipur. You know I have taken the charge only recently."

Then I explained what I had done in this matter and at the end I said:

"May I take the liberty to request you and Shri Kalita to give me some time to study this problem and not to register your protest in the way you have mentioned in your letter."

I wrote this yesterday and they sent me a letter this morning like this :

"Your letter of March 23 had reached us last evening. We must thank you for all the earnestness with which you have engaged yourself in the task of finding out the feasibility for a Second Public Sector Oil Refinery in Assam as demanded by the people there. Since our friends are staging a hunger-strike over this question in Assam and we are responding to the call of the Oil Refinery Action Committee in Assam, it will be difficult for us to comply with your kind request "not to register our protest" however much we might be inspired by our personal regards for you. It will be really very welcome if it could be possible for you to kindly announce your decision to appoint a Committee of Experts to go into the matter and submit a feasibility report as soon as possible on the floor of Parliament today. This will, we are sure, help all and contribute to

[Dr. Triguna Sen]

the lessening of mounting tension over the issue in the State."

I have stated before what steps we have taken long before this hunger-strike. I am sorry, responsible and respected friends of Assam have chosen this path which amount to putting pressure on me and the Government. This does not appeal to my way of thinking. I request them to withdraw it. We will study the feasibility of it and the economics of it. Only on that I will be able to decide whether there should be a second refinery or not.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI (Kendrapara) : Sir, he said in his statement that he has written to Shri D.K. Barua to give the names of experts. Am I to understand that only after the submission of names he will be able to decide about the experts who will constitute the committee or will he himself appoint the committee ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : We must find out our experts and then take a decision.

12.27 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
PAPERS UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT**

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1967-68
- (2) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1967-68, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT--457/69].

Calcutta Metropolitan Water and Sanitation Authority Amendment Act

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING**

AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRAKHAR) : On behalf of Shri K. K. Shah I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Calcutta Metropolitan Water and Sanitation Authority (Amendment) Act, 1969 (President's Act No. 6 of 1969) Published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 1969, under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the West Bengal State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1968.
- (2) A statement showing reasons for delay in laying the above Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-458/69.]

**Notification under Mines and Minerals
(Regulation and Development)
Act, and papers under
Companies Act**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS
(SHRI D. R. CHAVAN)** : I beg

- (1) to re-lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. GSR 2107 published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1968, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2804/68].

- (2) to lay on the Table-
 - (i) A copy each of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) Review by the Government on the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Development Company Limited, for the year 1967-68.
 - (b) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Development Company Limited for the year 1967-68 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT--459/69].