

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

Shri Krishnamoorthy Rao (Shimoga): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes of the Sittings (22nd to 26th) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current Session.

12.34 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: MANAGEMENT OF
PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): I promised last week to make a statement with regard to the management procedures in the public sector projects, and I am making that statement. It is fairly long. I may be permitted to lay it on the table.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1788] 63].

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Will it be circulated to Members?

Mr. Speaker: I will arrange that.

12.35 hrs.

STATEMENT REGARDING WORKING OF GAUHATI REFINERY

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): The House has taken considerable interest in the past in the working of the Gauhati Refinery and as such would like to know the latest position and the result of efforts made by the technical team from Rumania headed by their Deputy Minister, and our experts.

As the House is aware, there had been operational difficulties resulting

in restricted throughput, interruptions in the refinery production, and closure of the Kerosene Refining Unit. The main problem encountered during the operation of the Kerosene Unit in 1962 was excessive corrosion at several places. This was first noticed in the Compressors, when the unit was started up in the May 1962. Later, in July and August 1962, corrosion was noticed in one of the process columns. After a series of modifications, the unit operated reasonably well for about 6 weeks in November and December 1962 but had then to be shut down for operational reasons. When it was restarted towards the end of January 1963, acute difficulties in the Compressors were encountered. The principal difficulty throughout this period was the maintenance of water content of SO_2 i.e. sulphur-dioxide within the permissible limit of 0.08%. It had been varying from 0.06 to 0.25 and the reason seemed to be the mal-functioning of the fractionating column (Drying Column) which which was intended to separate the water from SO_2 . The high water content in SO_2 had contributed to excessive corrosion of the steam re-boilers in the Unit, which, after consequential rupture, increased the water content, causing more corrosion. Similarly, the inter-coolers and the compressors were badly corroded and the working of the compressors was adversely affected.

Substantial modifications in the Drying Column were made in March 1963 to improve the efficiency of the drying system. During the major overhaul in August, 1963, every part of the Unit was opened, inspected and cleaned and all defective equipment like compressors, inter-coolers, reboilers etc. were rectified and in many cases retubed with new tubes received from Rumania. Two of the compressors were completely stripped and overhauled and faulty bearings, casings etc. were renewed. It was only after the completion of this overhaul in August 1963 that the Drying Column could be put to adequate test and the Kerosene Unit was commissioned on the 25th August, 1963.

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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.