PREFACE

The Petroleum Industry has a significant role in the process of industrialization of Assam. Among the four Refineries of Assam, Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) is unique as besides refining crude oil, it has petrochemical units. BRPL provides raw-materials for growth of a large number of downstream industries based on its petrochemical units. This unique distinction of BRPL as refinery cum petrochemical complex among the Indian refineries has drawn my attention to make in depth study of the production behaviour of BRPL and also its economic impact and environmental issues.

Study of production behaviour is important in the sense that it gives an insight into the effective utilization of productive resources and economic health of the Industry. Production behaviour of BRPL is analyzed (Chapter VI) in terms of productivity, rate of return, economic efficiency etc. using various standard production functions like Cobb-Douglas production function, constant Elasticity of
Substitution production function and Variable Elasticity of Substitution production function.

The study also attempts to trace out the economic impact of the establishment of BRPL and its subsequent expansion on income generation, employment both direct and indirect, trade and commerce and so on (Chapter VII).

Any industrial development may have adverse impact on environment. So, we make an attempt to ascertain whether the BRPL has any adverse impact on environment including health condition of population in and around the refinery complex based on sample survey. (Chapter VIII)

It is expected that the findings of the study will contribute towards policy implication of BRPL in its future growth and development.

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