

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH

NEW DELHI, 3rd May 1948.

C. P. Menon,
My dear Bhabha,

I am sending you herewith a copy of the letter which I have sent to Panditji. The whole of the work should now be taken up by you in the country's good. I wish to remain outside this strife as you can fight much better as a youngman with definitely more vigour than myself.

I have not yet met Panditji nor discussed things with him. I shall see him on my return. As a patriotic countryman I like ^{some} development to take place. I don't care what role I am given.

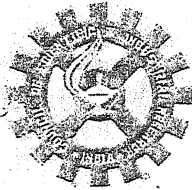
I have taken action regarding the coupons and shall write to you later.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. P. Menon

Dr. H. J. Bhabha, F.R.S.,
Director,
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research,
53, Peddar Road, Bombay 26.



COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH

NEW DELHI, the 3rd May 1948.

My dear Panditji,

As desired by you, I arranged to return to Bombay from Madras on the 25th, but as Bhabha and I found you very busy, I went to Poona to inspect the construction activities of the National Chemical Laboratory. I returned on the 26th and found Bhabha ill with some sort of a dysentery and had to return to Delhi without seeing you with a joint note with Bhabha on the subject of Atomic Energy. His own notes were not ready then.

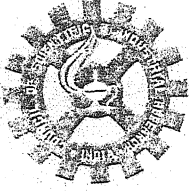
I have now heard from him and he says he managed to see you after dinner on Monday and that he has given you a note already. I agree with him on all points excepting my own position. I should trust the whole of this work to Dr. Bhabha. I have no hesitation to be of service where I can but Bhabha may be entrusted with executive duties for Atom work. As a matter of fact, Bhabha should

be given a Government post right away.

3. All that I feel is that we must now act.

The world will laugh at us if with all the hurry to get the Bill through we don't take any active action. I hope Mr. Bhabha has supplied you with estimates etc. He seems to have forgotten to send the papers to me. Our idea was Rs. 10 lakhs this year and rupees 20 lakhs next year and 20 lakhs in the third year for the completion of the pile.

4. I must also say that nobody in India has actual practical experience of fission work. Some of the Indian scientists are well versed in theory (particularly the physicists. Curiously enough the Atomic Energy production requires more practical chemistry than physics and almost all the secrets are in the domain of chemistry and not physics. I am sure Bhabha has already advised you of this. We shall have to have contacts abroad and ^{also} some talent. I am not wishing to hurry this for any other reason excepting for the country's good. As I have indicated



COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH

NEW DELHI. The 13rd May 1950

-3-

to you, I wish no power or post in this but I shall
be glad to be of any service which it may please you
to assign to me.

I am enclosing the paragraph from Mr. Bhabha's
letter to me, which pertains to the subject matter
of this note for the sake of ready reference.

With respectful regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd - S.S. Bhatnagar

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister of India.