

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

NEW DELHI the 21st June 1949.

My dear Bhabha,

I am glad to tell you that my proposal for a 4 lakh grant for your Institute has been sanctioned. You will hear officially from Gonsalves. This is a great event.

I now wish that you give serious consideration to what I have to say. Don't trifle with it. Help me as I have always helped you. I am writing these proposals in advance so that you may collect all the information you need by writing, wiring or telephoning and have a definite written reply ready when I meet you in Bangalore.

The post I hold is one of the most difficult ones. Every day I have to displease Sahas and several others like him much against my wishes. The provincial campaign, the anonymous letter campaign and many other maligning methods are in vogue. In spite of all this I have, through the kindness of God and friends, accomplished quite a bit. With no word of praise or encouragement from those in authority, our prestige has been hit by jealous persons. I was so happy when on my daughter's wedding you wrote such a charming letter about my work. It heartened me.

Very definitely the Reviewing Committee had passed a resolution congratulating me. When the report went to Sir Ardeshir Dalal, by some chance this was deleted. This report is coming for discussion at the next meeting of the Governing Body and I feel that you should see that this mistake is rectified. A resolution of appreciation of the work done should be moved by the President and supported by the Vice-President, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, J.R.D. Tata, you and others. Perhaps Sahas will oppose it, but he may not. In any case,

all others will support. This will give me strength to fight this man against his malicious campaign of whispers and anonymous letters. The H.P.M. should also say a word of encouragement about the work of the Atomic Energy Commission. This is important at this stage. We have done good work and we have not cared to advertise ourselves but the world wants to know what the authorities feel like. So you must see that Sir Ardeshir Dalal and Mr. J.R.D. Tata attend the meeting. Of course, you must come. If you don't think this is feasible I have decided to request you to take up my work almost immediately. I have three suggestions about myself:

(i) I am willing to take up the Scientific Liaison Officer's post in London, provided it is made available for six months in London and six months in Washington. This will save money and for a year or two it does not really require full time men all the year round. There should be no difficulty if you help in making the salary a little more attractive. I am willing to make a sacrifice of Rs 500 a month.

or (ii) I should be taken for a period of seven years or so in Bangalore as Director. I would not mind a salary of Rs 3000 which is the maximum for that post and is less than my present salary.

or (iii) I am allowed to work as a Liaison Officer with several corporations for Industrial Development which are going to be financed jointly by foreign countries such as Britain and America. Both these countries will be eager to support if India allows.

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or (iv) The Tatas may appoint me as their adviser on any salary provided I am allowed six months in England and America for imbibing scientific knowledge and six months for executive work in India in their several projects. I shall justify my connection by increased income, new introductions which will lead to improved production in steel, in oils, in cottons and in chemicals. I should have a contract of at least five years.

Now as a good friend on whom I can depend, I shall be glad if you explore these possibilities for me and get something done. With you in my place and I in ~~the~~ independent place we shall be able to squash this gang. I shall be able to write and say more than I can now. So please do keep my letter confidential and act. If you, the Tatas and the Government do not help me, I shall have to accept an appointment with some foreign firm much against my wishes. You can well imagine, how tired and fed up I am with this Bengali clique and having always helped good causes I hope you as an upholder of all good causes too, will help me out. I know the whole country and the Government would not like my going, but I wish to go to be able to say something ⁱⁿ the public and to let our indifferent authorities say at least a word of appreciation on my parting from this service.

I want definite opinion in writing either immediately or at the latest when I reach Bangalore.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. H.J. Bhabha, F.R.S.,
West End Hotel,
Bangalore.