

Ref: TFR/9-SSB/7181

13th May, 1948.

My dear Phatnagar,

Thank you for your letter sending me a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister.

As I told you, I am not willing to undertake this work unless I have you with me in this difficult enterprise. As you have rightly pointed out some of the most difficult part of this work is chemical and this will have to be in your charge. Just because of this difficulty my view is that the main concentration should be on the physical side after a suitable agreement has been made with foreign atomic energy agencies for the supply of prepared material in return for raw material. This will give us time to work out the chemical processes and also means of testing the results in a pile. We will also have some tangible results to show in a reasonable period. I did not send a copy of my

note to the Prime Minister to you as I thought it might not be the correct thing
to send a copy of a confidential note to the Prime Minister to anyone else. I
have no doubt that he would discuss the matter with you fully in any case. When
you come to Bombay next I shall be glad to show the note to you of which I only
have one copy.

Yours sincerely,

H. B.

Sir J.S. Mathnagar, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Director of Scientific and Industrial Research,
Imperial Secretariat (North),
NEW DELHI.

HPF:aer.

given personally.