

Ref:FFR/23-C/34

18th February, 1948.

My dear Bhatnagar,

I have your D.O.No.154 Bd.XIV/48 of the 16th February, 1948, regarding the scheme of Dr.A.K.Saha.

Before expressing my view as to whether the money should be given immediately, I would first like to know whether the fission products from Oakbridge are an essential part of this scheme. If so, you should write direct to Oakbridge and verify first that they are prepared to sell the fission products to India. I am informed by Dr.Vallarta that, certainly up to the 1st of December, fission products as such were not available for sale to foreign countries.

Despite the circumstance that the sale of radio-active and stable isotopes has been advertised by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, it is necessary to verify in each case whether a particular isotope is available. For example, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has advertised the availability of Polonium 10, which is a stable isotope. Prof.P.S.Gill wished to have some of this isotope for making neutron counters, and I made enquiries from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. I was informed that none of the stable isotopes are for export to any ^{foreign} country as the amount available is not sufficiently large (this despite the advertisement). I have since verified from the British and from Dr.Vallarta that the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission does not sell its stable isotopes to any foreign country. The same might be the position with regard to the fission products. If these are ^{available} then the whole complexion of Dr. A.K.Saha's scheme will change, and any money given towards it might lie unused for the time being. As soon as the above information is available we can take up the matter for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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HJB:ev.