

To.

Dr. P.K. Kichlu,

Delhi University,

Delhi.

Sir,

I am a refugee student of East Punjab University, Physics Honours School, and am now on the termination of my M.Sc. degree pending the completion of my thesis on Beat Frequency Oscillator. After partition we had no substantial library, our own being already transferred to Hoshiarpur. For the purpose of collecting some substance relevant to my thesis I went to-day in the library of National Physical Laboratory and was busy writing when the Librarian came to me and asked for "pass". I apologised for having none and asked him to allow me to sit till I bring your permission.

After a while a low looking man sitting on the desk came and asked me vehemently and in a most vulgar manner to get out of the Library since I was an outsider. I was astounded, shocked at his vulgarity and felt the earth going away from my feet. A library to whatever denomination it belongs is a fortress for a scholar where he is invulnerable. But such shocking treatment especially from a menial staff is a challenge to the humble honour of an Indian Scholar. Even at Delhi there are foreign librarians the staff of which are extra polite to the readers and quite sympathetic to the "offenders", and I feel aggrieved at the treatment which has been meted out to me in a Library of our nation.

I might be a refugee, I might be poorly dressed but never on that account should I be treated in such a manner.

I approach you for the justice and obviating of the difficulty which I meet for simply looking into books.

I beg to remain sir,
yours most obediently,

Shanker Prashad Mukherjee

M. Sc. (student)

Professor Krishna,

I was surprised to read the above. S. P. Mukherji is one of our best students with a fine career and it pains me to see people being treated in this manner. I should be most grateful if you will be so kind as to make some enquiries in regard to this.

P. C. Kichlu

26/8/49