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9 Sivaganga Colony,  
Nungambakam, Madras, 6-5-48.

From D.H.Ramchandra Rao, B.E, A.M.I.E. Engineer A.U.  
(on leave)  
To The Registrar, Allahabad University.

Sir,

I understand that the authorities propose to appoint temporary staff consisting of a Civil Engineer, overseers etc for the new buildigs proposed to be constructed with the money collected for the purpose during the recent Diamo-nd Jubilee. I beg to submit very humbly,

1. That from Dec 1922 onwards all the maintenance work and the design and construction of all the original works during these 25 years has been carried out by me. Upto 1930 it was in the capacity of contractor's engineer, and from 1930 to date in the capacity of University Engineer.
2. That of the latter period of about 18 years, I had no staff at all for about 10 years and for the balance of 8 years the staff has been very inadequate. Despite this handicap construction of the new buildings such as the Bank Rd quarters, Common rooms, Swimming tank Physics deptt extensions, Darbhanga ha l, Womens Hos-tel, Union building etc which, at present prices, would have cost over about Rs 10,00,000/- proceeded smoothly side by side with the routine maintenance work to the perfect satisfaction of everyone concer-ned.
3. T at I gave the best years of my life to the Univer-sity and accepted a low starting salary in the hope that the authorities would be pleased to grant me improved prospects.
4. That despite my repeated representations during the last 15 years, my present basic pay remains a poor Rs 350/-.
5. That rough plans and estimates for many of the pro-posed buildings have already ben prepared by me in connection with numerous proposals submitted to Govt Central and Provl, and other prospective donors during the last 3 or 4 years; and I therefore request the authorities t give me an oppurtunity to execute these proposals.
6. That on account of present scarcity conditions which are likely to continue for some time, the rate of progress on these projects is bound to be small and may not exceed what it was during the previous period

period of greatest building activity from 1935 to '42. which was handled by me with little or no staff to the entire satisfaction of the University authorities and that it should present no difficulty now with the aid of extra staff.

I request that you kindly recommend to the authorities that I may be permitted to undertake the work in connection with the proposed schemes in addition to the present routine duties and that the authorities may be pleased to grant me increased pay of Rs 500/- plus permissible allowances in the grade of Rs 500-30-800.

I am unfortunately denied the privilege of submitting my case to the authorities in person and I beg that you will do so and do me the favour of recommending my case to them.

I beg to remain, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

B.E, A.M.I.E.

"MAYA" New Katra,  
Allahābad, 3rd July 48.

Dear Sir Krishnan,

Since we met last on the 14th Dec 47, my health grew ~~wor~~ worse and a ten year old son of ours died of smallpox on the 5th Jan. I went away to Madras on two months leave and had to extend it for a further four months as I put myself under a naturopath and had to live on orange juice only for over two months. I returned on the 30th June still rather weak though improved in health. I am to rejoin duty on the 15th.

A In my absence, the authorities advertised for an additional Engineer for new schemes and I submitted a representation, a copy of which is enclosed, which did not receive favorable consideration. A committee consisting of the V.C, the Treasurer, Dr Ranjan, Profs M.K.Ghosh and Bhargava was em-  
-powered to select an engineer and they have appointed a retired P.W.D man who holds an Overseer diploma of the Roorkee college but whose oppor-  
-tunity came with the war and he has retired as an Executive Engineer. It would be stupid of me to try to decry him in any manner but it appears to me strange that an Institution like the Univ which awards Degrees and sets some store on Degrees awarded by other Universitties should prefer a per-  
-son with only an Overseer diploma to their own man with an Engineering Degree who gave the best of his life to the Univ and served it one way or another for 25 years on a miserable pay which took 18 years to creep up from Rs 250 to Rs 350.

On my return here I was informed that Prof Ghosh fought bitterly against me and that he denounced me at their meeting as an utterly dishonest person. Considering the high position he holds in the Univ and the license which gentlemen like him who shape the destinies of this Temple of Learning and Culture, seem to claim- particularly when the person whom they accuse is not there to defend himself- his voice must have been heard to great effect. What, however, surprised and pained me most was the report that Dr Ranjan too had no sympathy for me. I learn that the arrangement made by the Committee will come up for consideration this month at a meeting of the Exec Council which will be held soon after the reopening.

I therefore send you this S.O.S and request you kindly to write to Dr Ranjan and to Prof Bhargava, if you consider proper, and ask them to support my case. I have my faults, no doubt, but I never imagined that the Univ could treat me so unjustly.

B. Dr Bhattacharya was good enough to write to me when I was in Madras. I enclose copies of his letter dtd 10th June and my reply thereto. He was good enough to acknowledge this reply too and say that he "regretted he did not know these things before". Unfortunately this letter was in my attache case which was stolen from my compartment during my journey from Howrah to here and I cannot send you a copy.

I am afraid I have taken up much of your valuable time but I am feeling most miserable and unhappy. I trust this finds you and your family

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family in perfect health. With kind regards and requesting the favor of your early action,

Yours sincerely,

DHR Rao

Dr. Sri K. S. Krishnan.  
Director. National Physical  
Laboratory.  
New Delhi.

Copy

B.

(Personal)

Copy of Dr Bhattacharya's letter from Bombay dated 10-6-48.

Dear Mr Rao,

Yours of May 25th redirected to me here. I leave this for Alld either on June 21st or towards the end of the month.

Yes. Mr Lakshmi Chand has been appointed to the post by the sub-comm and Ex Council. He has not joined yet. Re your allowance and grade everything will depend on the Council. I pleaded for you and shall do so again. But people who count in the Univ are against you and the loss sustained by the Univ in your time from the godown combined with certain other irregularities stand in the way of your promotion. But you can easily wipe this out by showing keen interest on return. With myself and the Treasurer on your side, you should be able to regain the confidence of the members of the council. Trust you are well on the way to recovery,

Yours sincerely,  
(sd) D.R.Bhattacharya.

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Copy of my reply to the above, dated 17th June.

Dear sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 10th. I am indeed very much depressed and unhappy to learn that people who count in the Univ are against me and that the losses from the godown last year stand in the way of my promotion.

I was myself ill and on sick leave and on top of that, terribly worried about two of my sons who were paid up with typhoid, from 20th May to 10th July 47. The overseer was in charge. There was a theft of fans from the office in the 3rd week of June. About 2 months later, when the overseer was on leave for a few days, there was a theft of pipes from the godown. None of the people who count in the Univ ever asked me for my views on these happenings. The overseer had little love for me because I had opposed his confirmation in the March preceding. I heard much but hearsay led me nowhere. I dont remember to have said, even to you, anything about these matters then. The overseer conveyed to me in Sep or Oct last, when I pulled him up for continued delay in carrying out orders, that a certain officer had been in the habit of sending for him several times a day for questioning on matters connected with the engineering section. It was only then that I realised that the man found willing ~~xxx~~ ears in high quarters and that he was encouraged in certain ways behind my back. That explained all the pinpricks and petty tyranny that I had experienced since the previous March. His pay was doubled with retrospective effect and I understand he was recently confirmed without the formality of consulting the engineer. I do not grudge his prosperity. If the overseer's re-

revised salary had been offered only a year before, the Univ would have obtained the services of a first class Roorkee man. I can now realise what a further splendid opportunity my six months' absence must have provided him.

I suppose thieves were busy in other depts but that did not stand in the way of promotion of other people in the Univ. For years I begged the authorities to provide me with adequate staff but no notice was taken. I am pained beyond measure that people who count for so much in this Temple of Learning and Culture to which I have devoted nearly the whole of my working life of 25 years should have judged me as they have done.

From '30 to '39, I did all the work singlehanded and did not hear a single word of complaint though the work steadily increased and the routine became more and more complicated. For the next 5 or 6 years I had a fairly good Roorkee passed man (though his previous experience was all in irrigation and you know that was of no use to me in the Univ) til Aug 45 when he left for a better job. That was the time when the overseer's grade should have been revised so that he could have kept on.

From Aug 45 to Apr 46 again there was no overseer and my health steadily deteriorated but I had to carry on. Naturally the work suffered & I was blamed. The present man was appointed in Apr 46 and it is on record what my opinion of him was and is. My health grew worse and worse the work suffered and I continue to be blamed. What I had to endure between Apr 47 and Jan 48 almost ruined my health. The death of one of my sons in Jan last and the breakdown of my health came almost as a relief as it made me decide to take a respite: and I am most grateful to you for granting the leave and loan from my Prov Fund. But how I "enjoyed" this respite, you know yourself.

Between Sep 38 and Jan 48, the parttime clerk was changed more than a dozen times despite my protests. No notice was taken of my repeated requests for a permanent wholetime clerk cum storekeeper, who could be responsible for the correspondence and the stores: I had none whom I could trust. The authorities have now decided to employ extra staff on an unprecedented scale. On innumerable occasions I drew the attention of the authorities to the disparity of the staff provided at Alld and at Lucknow, but without result.

It was my own suggestion that the new hostel be constructed by the P.W.D if they could guarantee quick execution, in view of the great scarcity of material. Yet my esteemed colleagues deemed it fit to make insinuating remarks that the work was so entrusted because of my incompetence. I was not considered fit even to be shown as a formality, the plans approved by the authorities. In Oct or Nov last for the first time the V.C asked me to accompany him to the work on probably his first visit. He learnt then that the plans provided for fifty seats on each of the two floors and that the G. floor only was to be constructed. He expressed his surprise and said that he had been under the impression that the plan provided for 100 seats on each floor and that 100 were to be ready in July next. That is how the authorities deemed it fit to treat their own engineer.

I trust etc etc,

Yours obediently,

(S) D. R. La