

February 4, 1954

Dear Mr Mehra,

Thank you for your kind letter of January 19. I have sent a suitable reply to Professor Heisenberg. I hope you will be able to get a scholarship and to continue your research.

With kind regards

yours sincerely

Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, Göttingen.

19. January 1954.

My dear, and respected Professor Krishnan,

On my arrival here I had sent you a letter; I am very sorry indeed that since then I have not written to you about the progress of my work. But herewith, respected Professor, I have a prayer to you — and I trust that you would kindly help me by it.

I have pulled on here, for such a long time, with absolute lack of financial stability, in very great difficulties. All during this time I have suffered the pang of ignominy for being responsible for the mistakes with which you are familiar. However, I have pursued my work — and I expect that my thesis on "the theory of the scattering of neutrons from deuterons, and the nature of interaction forces between them" shall be complete within two or three months. I have, during this period, received great personal kindness and guidance from Prof. Heisenberg.

My prayer to you, Sir, is this. Recently I have applied for a scholarship by which I may be able to continue my work further — I have filled in the necessary forms, and in the column of my references in India I have mentioned the name of Mr. R.B. Mathur who was my professor of physics at college. Prof. Heisenberg

asked me if you would know me and speak a word of favourable reference for me. I only told him that I had the privilege of seeing you several times in Delhi, and I could hope that your word for me would be kind. He said that since he had known you in India, and afterwards too, and if I have at all met you, then he would very much like to ask for your word.

Hence, my humble prayer, respected Prof. Krishnan, is that you may kindly drop in a favourable word to Prof. Heisenberg about me. If your letter to him (if not extremely positive) would not be negative — it would mean the making of my career. I am always extremely grateful to you, Sir, and your kindness would help me tremendously. I am pitifully afraid of a mention of my previous odd mistakes; and repentant that I am, I shall be very thankful to you if your letter upon me would cover for me the advantage of your favourable opinion. Otherwise, there can be only MISERY for me —

Wishing you, respected Professor, a Happy New Year — and with my fond respects
Yours —

Jagdish Mehra.

PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR PHYSIK
GÖTTINGEN BÖTTINGERSTRASSE 4

Ⓜ GÖTTINGEN
Tel.: 3653

Dec. 17, 1953

Prof. W. Heisenberg

Prof. Sir K.S. K r i s h n a n
Department of Physics
University of Allahabad
A l l a h a b a d (Indien)

Dear Professor Krishnan,

A young Indian physicist, Mr. Jagdish M e h r a, intends to do research work on theoretical physics in the Max-Planck-Institute for Physics in Göttingen. Since he told me that he has studied under your guidance and has later on got the M.Sc. degree at the University of Allahabad, I would be grateful to you, if you could send me a few lines on what you think about his general qualification on theoretical physics.

Sincerely yours,

W. Heisenberg