

80 Daryaganj

Delhi,
Oct. 14, 1948.

My dear Sir,

I regret I was not able to see you before you left Delhi. Here again I have been unlucky. I got the impression that you would be taking off from the Palam Air-field on the 12th at 2 P.M. I learnt, when it was too late, that you had left in the morning from the Wellington aerodrome. I hope you had a pleasant air-voyage. You would now be busy discussing problems germane to the development of science in India. I trust you will pardon me for encroaching on your time.

I was very particular of meeting you before you left. I wanted to inform you that I had a brief talk with Sir S.S. Bhatnagar on the organization of a Scientific Information Service in India, and that I had requested him, if he found it necessary or convenient, to consult Sir Edward Appleton in the matter. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar had very kindly agreed to do so. The organization of a Scientific Information Service in India needs urgent consideration for 3 good reasons. Firstly, the present scientific set-up in India which emphasizes the promotion of research, should also make provision for a central service which will make available to users, - research workers, industry and the general public, - the results of scientific investigations all over the world. Secondly, the establishment of scientific liaison offices in the U.K. and other countries

calls for a service in India for receiving the information collected by the Liaison Officers and for distributing the same to users in India. And lastly, a central agency is essential to collect and collate the results of scientific research in India and to transmit the same to overseas agencies engaged in similar activities.. Such services exist in every country and they ~~are~~ form essential components of the Departments of Scientific and Industrial Research.

You would have, no doubt, already given thought to this aspect of science organization in India. I have ventured to put forward a suggestion to Sir S.S.Bhatnagar, based on what he himself had said to me ~~some~~ time before, - viz., that I may be deputed to study the different aspects of the information service of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, London, and to work for some time in the office of NATURE. This study, and discussions with Prof. S.Bhagavantham, will help me in preparing a plan for the Indian Scientific Information Service, which I shall submit for Sir S.S.Bhatnagar's consideration. This is a worker's suggestion and appears to be eminently practical. I hope it will meet with your approval. May I request you to be so good as to discuss the matter with Sir S.S.Bhatnagar? London is perhaps a better venue for the discussion of this subject than Delhi, and Prof. Bhagavantham, to whom I have already written in the matter, would be available for discussion on the ~~practicality~~ ~~practicability~~ of the scheme.

With respects,
Yours sincerely,
B. N. Basu