

When nearly three years ago
the ^{Indian} Science Congress held its
sessions at Delhi, there was
a distinguished gathering of
scientists not only from all
parts of India, but also from
overseas by special invitation.
(The ~~invitation~~ ^{participation} of ^{distinguished} overseas scientists
^(in the deliberations of) the Science Congress has since
become, happily, a permanent
feature.) We availed ourselves
of that occasion to invite the
Hon. the Prime Minister to lay
the foundation stone of the ~~labor~~
National Physical Laboratory. Owing
however to certain abnormal
conditions that developed soon
after ⁱⁿ ~~connected~~ ⁱⁿ with the partition
of the country, the building programme
~~could not be implemented~~ had to be
was delayed for over ~~fifteen~~ ^{sixteen} months. The
baby has now passed through ^{her} ~~all the~~
teething troubles, and as you can see
~~for yourself~~, has grown ⁱⁿ into a
healthy and robust ~~to~~ child. Though
she is not quite an artist's model
she has been admired in some quarters
for her looks too. What virtues she

will develop and how quickly, and how distinguished will be her services to India and to Science, ~~it~~ ~~with~~ the future alone can tell. It is, however, our fond hope that when she grows to her full stature she will prove worthy of the high ideal set by the ~~the~~ Prime Minister, and it may even be possible for him to claim, as a distinguished ~~the~~ predecessor of his in the line of philosopher-statesmen, did with some pride

जमकानां कुले कति आशिष्यति मे युता.

Meanwhile I may assure you that she is being ~~not~~ nurtured on the best scientific food that is available in India, and under expert advice.

The National Physical Laboratory is one of the eleven ~~the~~ ⁿ National Laboratories — eleven from a good team — spread all over India, which we ~~are~~ owe in a large measure to the vision, and the untiring energy and resourcefulness of my distinguished friend Dr Sanku Swarnp Bhatnagar. ~~In a sense~~ The National Physical ^{will} ~~is~~, in a sense be different from the other National Laboratories. Though she will do for Physics what the National Chemistry will do for chemistry, and the other laboratories for their respective

subjects, she will also ~~serve~~ function
~~as~~ ^{National} serve as the Bureau of Standards
~~for the country.~~