

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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7 6 DEC 1960

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2 December 1960.

Dear Krishnan,

I am writing to you to ask whether you have in the National Physical Laboratory any kind of job that would be suitable for a former student of mine. I am very anxious that he should not be wasted which might easily happen if he were to take a job in the wrong kind of place. Might I tell you a little about him?

His name is M. Asgar Ali. He was educated at Calcutta and came to me to do research in quantum chemistry. He spent three years here and obtained his D.Phil. During this time he developed in a most satisfactory fashion and has now acquired considerable experience of the various techniques and ideas used in quantum chemistry. He has written two or three papers which have been published in the best journals and there are one or two more in course of publication at the moment. After he had finished with me, he went to Löwdin's group in Uppsala. He has been there now since September and finishes in the summer of 1961. By this time he should count as one of the two or three best trained people in India in the field of theoretical chemistry. He is a nice chap and we were very fond of him while he was in the Institute. It would be a great pity therefore if when he returned to India, as he hopes to do, a suitable job could not be found. He is not one of the very best, but he is good. Would it be reasonable to say that so far as one can see, he is not the kind of person who would stand much chance of becoming a F.R.S.? But he is the kind of person who might make a very useful contribution to the development of the borderline field between physics, chemistry and mathematics. I should judge that in India such people might be very valuable, given the right kind of circumstances. If there is anything whatever that you have which might be of some use to him, I should be most grateful if you would tell me. I could then pass on the information to him and ask him to get in touch with you or indeed with anyone else. He has been in correspondence with someone in Calcutta and has written to the Tata Institute in Bombay.

Please forgive me for bothering you in this way, but I remember so vividly the time when we met at the international conference in Japan some six or seven years ago. I am hoping myself to be in India in just under twelve months from now, and shall try to escape from my conference for a little while to visit your lab. and see all that is going on.

With kind regards,

Sir Kariamanikkam Krishnan, F.R.S.,
National Physical Laboratory of India,
Hillside Road, New Delhi, India.

Yours sincerely,

C.A. Coulson