

PERSONAL

2707

May 30, 1967

My dear Maharaja Sahab,

I have received your letter No. D.O.1225 of 10th May. Will you please note that my Delhi address has changed and all communication there should be now addressed to No. 2 Tughlak Road, New Delhi 11.

Yesterday, I saw Mr. Cooverji Bhabha and conveyed to him your request. He was very reluctant; I put a lot of pressure on him and all I could get him to agree was not to say no until he had talked the matter over with you. He is worried that this may mean a three month stay in Orissa if the job is to be well done. He considers it to be a very important Committee and feels that someone who can give that much time should be its Chairman. I explained to him that none of the people of sufficient standing whom we had in mind would be better placed than him and thought that perhaps he and you can work out a formula which might be acceptable.

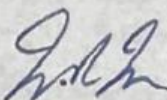
Apart from this Committee and its Chairmanship, I think I have got Mr. Bhabha interested in Orissa and wanting to be of help. He has excellent contacts both here and abroad from the point of view of interesting investors in your State and he has agreed to do what he can to help.

Bhabha plans to visit Calcutta on 23rd June and I have got him tentatively to agree to spend a couple of days, say the 24th and 25th of June in Bhubaneshwar. This of course is subject to your own convenience and to your agreeing that it would be worth inviting him to visit Bhubaneshwar for this purpose. I personally have no doubt that this would be a rewarding visit. My suggestion would be that you should now write to him at 49 Cuffe Parade, Bombay 5, inviting him on those or other convenient days. You will no doubt suggest that he will be your guest while he is there. In case you fail to persuade him to become Chairman or cannot wait to keep the matter open that long, I shall be glad to persuade either Mr. H. P. Nanda, Chairman of Escorts Ltd., New Delhi, or alternatively Dr. R. C. Cooper in Bombay. Both of them are as you know keen friends of ours and one or the other might be prepared to take on this burden but I think we shall have to give them some idea of the number

of months the Committee would expect to function before submitting its report and the actual number of days they would have to spend in Orissa, spread over several visits. Otherwise their reaction might be the same as that of Mr. Bhabha.

As I am ~~now~~ moving back to Delhi ^{on the 6th} tomorrow, I think it would be best if you would correspond directly with Mr. Bhabha and I too will press him as soon as I hear from you.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. Masani)

H.H. Maharaja R. N. Singh Deo,
Chief Minister of Orissa,
Kheravalanagar,
Bhubaneswar
(Orissa)

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