

Ref: TFR/181(13)/

October 13, 1992

Shri K. Damodaran  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Department of Atomic Energy  
C.S.M. Marg  
BOMBAY 400 039

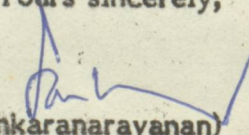
Dear Shri Damodaran,

The Status Reports in respect of the following  
National Centres are sent herewith:

- 1) National Centre for Biological Sciences;
- 2) Giant Metrewavelength Radio Telescope
- 3) Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education.

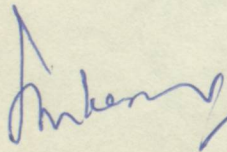
With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(K. Sankaranarayanan)  
OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY

Encls aa

For your record pl.



By S. Sridhar



STATUS REPORT ON  
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Construction of additional laboratory space for the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) at the TIFR Centre, Bangalore, is in progress and is expected to be completed by April next year. Tenders have been invited for putting up a boundary wall, a small shed etc. at the new site in the Campus of the University of Agricultural Science (UAS). A bore-well for supplying water is also being made. About 500 tree saplings are being planted this year in the periphery of the land.

Pending decision on the proposal for engagement of an external Architect for designing the buildings at the site in the Campus of UAS, no major construction work has started there yet.

Laboratory equipment worth Rs. 99.45 lakhs has been acquired and action for procurement of equipment worth additional Rs. 40 lakhs is in progress.

An administrative set up for NCBS has been created. A Project Management Committee with Director, TIFR, as its Chairman has been constituted to oversee the setting up of the Centre. A Steering Committee with the Project Director as its Chairman has also been constituted to oversee the academic management of the Centre. Administration at Bangalore is being augmented with a Purchase & Stores Cell capable of handling major purchases.

The NCBS at present consists of 8 Groups, four of which have moved to Bangalore. Others are working in Bombay. The research areas include Structural Biology, Molecular Neurobiology, Neurogenetics and Molecular Biology of Human Disease. The current staff of NCBS is 32 (Academic 21; Scientific & Technical 7; and Administration 4). In addition, there is a project staff of 5 supported by extramural grants from DST and DBT.

The senior academic staff of the Centre has been recognised as post-graduate teachers by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. A proposal has been made to the Mysore University for recognising the NCBS as a Centre for research towards Ph.D. degree in Zoology and Biochemistry.



## STATUS REPORT ON GMRT

The first antenna is commissioned but there have been considerable delays on the commissioning of the antennas as the two main contractors for the fabrication and erection of 30 antennas had under-estimated the efforts and deployment of manpower and equipments. Efforts have been made and are continuing to speeden up the work.

The progress in brief is as follows :

(i) Antennas : The first antenna has been completed by one of the contractors, electronics systems integrated and pressed into operation. The first antenna by the other contractor will be ready within about a month. It was agreed by both the contractors that they would complete all the antennas by 31st March 1994.

(ii) Electronics : The systems installed on the first antenna have proved satisfactory. Work is now in progress for mass production of systems for 30 antennas.

(iii) Computer System : A 16-node Parallel Processing System has been delivered by C-DOT and the second larger system (with 64 nodes) is undergoing field trials at Bangalore before despatch to Pune. Work on software is in progress.

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(iv) Electrical : The power supply situation has improved considerably. The 2-MVA Station is commissioned. Work on electrical lines for Y-arms is in progress.

(v) Civil works : Work on all the 30 RCC towers have been completed and they have been taken possession of.

(vi) Budget : The Cabinet approval for the revision of the budget of the project from Rs. 35.0 crores to Rs. 43.20 crores has been received. In view of the drastic increase in material prices in the recent years, specially due to devaluation of rupee, it has been agreed by the GMRT Project Committee to pay to the main contractors an escalation. Although this will help motivate the contractors to complete the work faster, it will result in an increase of Rs. 106 lakhs in the estimated value of the antenna system. Since it was emphasised by the AEC and the Finance Ministry that no revision in the project cost will be possible, with the approval of the GMRT Project Management Committee funds have been re-appropriated by suitably reducing expenditures on other heads, with minimum possible adverse effects on the overall efficiency.



## PROGRESS REPORT OF HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

The new campus for the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) consists of the main building, a small television studio, and a visitors' hostel/guest house. The main building houses offices and laboratories, library, canteen, lecture rooms and a small auditorium. The television studio is expected to produce prototype programmes for research and field-work, while the visitors' hostel would house school teachers for whom HBCSE organises courses, and a few other visitors.

The construction work for the main building started two years ago in October 1990. The building is now ready and HBCSE has started moving into it from its present location at Grant Road. The shifting is expected to be completed by mid-October 1992.

HBCSE is now undertaking the work of equipping and furnishing the building. This includes laboratory equipment, equipment for the canteen kitchen, equipment and seats for the auditorium and furniture for the lecture rooms and some offices. Contracts for security, cosmetic maintenance etc. are being awarded.

Architectural plans for a hostel are being finalised. It is hoped that construction of the hostel could be started soon to enable HBCSE to operate under full steam.