

11 January 1989

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Dear Prof. Virendra Singh,

1 I am writing to you regarding my citizenship, a question that has been a major irritant to me for some years now. I was a British passport holder at the time of joining TIFR, first as a research scholar and later as a member of its academic staff.

2 My application for Indian citizenship on the grounds of my parents being of Indian origin is at present bogged down somewhere in the bureaucracy in Delhi. Indications are that it will be rejected.

3 2 I am of the opinion that the Institute should, when it hires its staff take care of these questions with the government. If the Institute thinks that someone is worthy of being a member of its academic staff, surely it can ensure the legal status of such a person. This is done routinely in most other countries.

4 My being a foreign passport holder puts me through all sorts of difficulties and humiliation: To leave the country to attend meetings is a major exercise, to return is a bigger problem, especially after a stay of about a year as happened during my last study leave in Germany. This year my stay had to be renewed and a payment of Rs. 1500/- made. I have little rights during my stay here and have few options to do things you might consider normal: for example, it is illegal for me to leave the city for an extended period and I have to contact the police at the place I visit and register myself.

5 I have given all my papers to the Institute several times. Prof. Siddiqi has also has copies of my documents and has promised to look into the matter. I would appreciate your examination of the case.

6 I am prompted to write to you now by the Institute's refusal to reimburse me for expenses incurred for the renewal of my visa (copy enclosed). As a matter of principle I feel that the Institute is obliged to reimburse me and to ensure that legal hurdles to my continued stay are removed. I therefore request you to kindly sanction the reimbursement. I would also like to add that any legal consequences resulting from my travel outside Bombay will have to be dealt with by the Institute. Further, I plan to attend a meeting in

Registrar
M. Prasad

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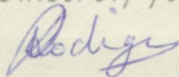
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the United States this October. I would like the Institute to get my citizenship status cleared well before that or ensure that arrangements regarding my leaving the country and return are taken care of in a manner which involves me the least. I have had enough of trauma these past few years dealing with this matter essentially by myself and refuse to have anything to do with it in future.

I look forward to an early response from you on this matter.

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Sincerely yours,



V. Rodrigues
Molecular Biology Unit

Copy to:

Prof. O. Siddiqi

