

The Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India will be responsible for building the foundations and basement of the reactor. Work on the basement has already started. The Department of Atomic Energy expects to have the work on the foundations and basement of the reactor completed before the end of June. Erection of the steel rotunda to house the reactor will start soon after the monsoon this year and is expected to near completion by the end of 1956. It is hoped that the reactor will be completed early in 1958 and that it will be in full operation by the middle of that year.

Arrangements have been made to send an adequate number of selected Indian technical personnel to Canada to obtain first hand experience and training in the operation of the NRX reactor at Chalk River. Chalk River is the Canadian Government's atomic energy establishment on the Ottawa River about 130 miles above Ottawa. Indian technical personnel will also be seconded to the engineering staff in Canada which is designing the reactor, the steel rotunda and the reactor foundations.

Thus, Canada, through the agency of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, will provide India with every opportunity for Indian scientists and engineers to become fully familiar with all aspects of the work. The visit of Indian scientists and engineers to Canada will be paid for by Canada under its normal technical assistance programme.

The Canada-India Atomic Reactor will add an advanced and versatile research facility to India's atomic energy programme. It is specifically designed to provide excellent facilities for fundamental research in physical, chemical, biological, and metallurgical problems relating to atomic energy. It is an efficient producer of radioactive isotopes for use in medical therapy, agriculture, and industry and for tracer element studies in chemical, biological, and medical research.

Above all, the reactor is specially suited for making engineering studies and research on reactor materials which can be tested under the conditions of high neutron intensity met inside reactors. The research and development facilities of the reactor will enable advanced engineering experiments to be performed in connection with the design of future power reactors.

India has offered to make the experimental facilities of the reactor available to scientists approved by the Government of India from other countries, including those belonging to the Colombo Plan in South and South-East Asia. Thus the installation of this reactor in India will advance the development of atomic energy not only in India but in the entire region.