

# Canada-India Atomic Reactor Project

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ON April 28 Mr. Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, and Mr. Escott Reid, the High Commissioner for Canada in India, signed in New Delhi an inter-governmental agreement on the Canada-India Atomic Reactor project. This agreement was forecast on September 16, 1955, in the joint announcement by the Governments of India and Canada that in April 1955 Canada had offered to India under the Colombo Plan a high powered atomic research and experimental reactor similar to the well known NRX reactor at the Canadian atomic energy establishment at Chalk River, Canada, and that India had accepted this offer shortly thereafter. Since the time of this announcement preliminary work has been going ahead at the site at the same time as further consultation between the two Governments.

The Canada-India Atomic Reactor will be erected at the atomic energy establishment of the Government of India at Trombay near Bombay. The building to house it will be a rotunda in the shape of a hermetically sealed steel shell some 135' high and 120' in diameter, which will be surrounded by buildings for auxiliary equipment and attached laboratories. Representatives of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited who have visited the site have been most favourably impressed by the location and the general facilities available in the area to carry out the work.

## A Joint Enterprise

The reactor project is a joint Indo-Canadian enterprise and costs and responsibilities are being shared between the two countries. When it is completed full title and complete control will pass to the Government of India. The total cost of the project will be about 7 crores of rupees or a little over 14 million dollars; the value of the Canadian contribution is about seven and a half million dollars, and the value of the Indian contribution over six and a half million dollars. The general principle is that Canada pays for the external costs, India for the internal costs.

Thus Canada is providing the reactor itself and the steel for the rotunda which will surround it. Canada is also designing the reactor, the steel rotunda, and the foundations of the reactor. Indian contractors and Indian labour will carry out the major part of the construction work at the site while Canada, represented by the publicly owned company, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, will be responsible for the supervision of the engineering and erection.

The Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India will be responsible for building the reactor's foundations and basement, work on which 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.