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परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग

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Dr. P. K. Iyengar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission expired after a brief illness in Mumbai today, that is December 21, 2011. He was Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy during 1990-93. Dr. Iyengar was an eminent nuclear physicist with keen interest in developing indigenous experimental facilities such as neutron diffractometers and neutron scattering spectrometers.

After his post graduation in Physics from Trivandrum, he started his career with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in 1952. He joined the then Atomic Energy Establishment Trombay in 1955 and was soon deputed to Chalk River Laboratories of the Canadian Atomic Energy Establishment where he worked on phonon spectrum and lattice dynamics in solids using neutron spectrometry techniques. After returning from Canada, he built a number of experimental facilities including neutron diffractometers and neutron scattering spectrometers around research reactors APSARA and CIRUS. He was also involved in the design and setting up of the first fast reactor critical facility PURNIMA - I which achieved its first criticality on May 18, 1972. He was also member of the team responsible for the successful peaceful nuclear experiment (PNE) at Pokhran on May 18, 1974. After holding several responsibilities in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, he became its Director in 1984. During his tenure as Director, BARC he provided the crucial leadership in resolving many technical challenges encountered in the commissioning of the indigenous research reactor DHRUVA. He provided dynamic leadership to the Indian Atomic Energy programme during his tenure as Chairman, AEC.

He was a recipient of Padma Bhushan (1975) and a number of other awards including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award. Dr. Iyengar is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

(S.K. Malhotra)



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