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BRAIN WAVES: Dr Raja Ramanna, nuclear physicist, (left), at the golden jubilee celebrations of the department of management, IISc, in Bangalore on Friday. Dr G. Padmanabhan, IISc director (next to him) was also present on the occasion. A photograph by K. Venkatesh

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Good response for N-test, says Ramanna

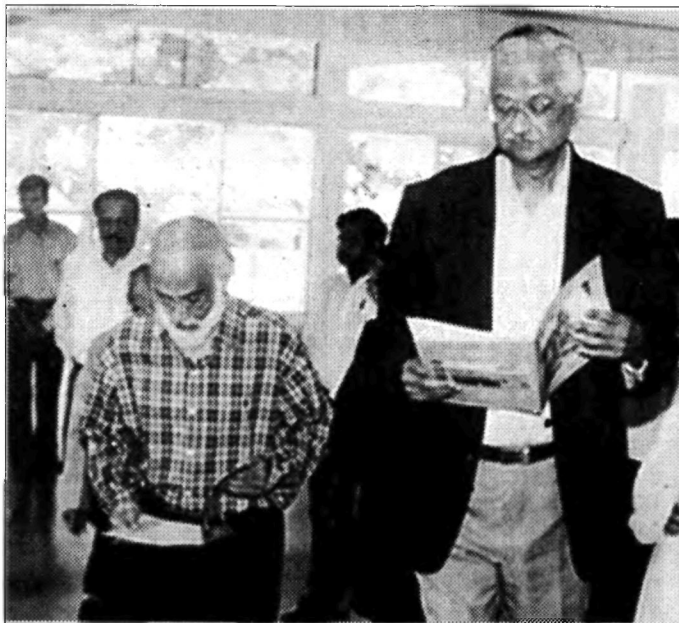
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 15: Eminent scientist Raja Ramanna said people's reaction to the recent nuclear explosion and the subsequent action of several countries including USA, was very encouraging, proving that the country stood together with all the regional problems being forgotten.

Despite sanctions and the political consequences, people across the country feel more comfortable as the country had now developed the capability and drawn wonderful experience, he said.

"The country is going into the next century at a tremendous pace and in the backdrop of sanctions, unless the countrymen come together it will face problems," he said.

Speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Department of Management Studies at the Indian Institute of Science here on Friday, Ramanna, who is also a former Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, said that san-



Director of IISc G Padmanabhan and Chairman of the Council of IISc Raja Ramanna arriving in Bangalore on Friday. — Express

ctions, the kind that has been imposed now by big countries, was nothing new.

"The actions of Atomic Energy Commission have always attracted sanctions since 1957

but this did not prevent it from building advanced technological devices.

"The response from the industry was tremendous. There were teething problems initia-

lly, but later it developed and delivered quality products to the atomic programme," he said.

He said the nuclear explosions would definitely have an impact on the country's future but it will tackle them.

The explosion of hydrogen bomb and other nuclear devices on Monday and Tuesday had demonstrated that India could explode smaller devices that could become weapons-grade.

"I feel elated about what has been achieved after I got the details from Chidambaram (AEC, chairman)," he said. He also hoped that such major national events would trigger enthusiasm among the younger generation to take up basic research, as he was particularly sorry about the fall in number of students taking up the basic research in science, especially in Physics.

IISc Director R G Padmanabhan said liberalisation did not yield any technological advantage, barring on making potato chips and getting Coca Cola.