

Dear Comrade,

4.1.1950

The following is the position of the work of Military Engineering Services Workers' Union in provinces other than UP:-

Punjab:

From the reports reaching me the work in M.E.S. in EP is said to have been winded up. Com. Harbhajan i/c of M.E.S. in EP has withdrawn and is not at Ambala. Of the two victimised workers one of whom had offered as a wholetimer and the other too worked as wholetimer for 3 months, both have taken up private employment. There is no contact of any leaders with the workers and the office at Ambala ~~is~~ remains closed. The reason is said to be terrorisation.

This union was one of the most active union in EP with six branches at Ambala, Jullunder, Pathankote, Yol, Ferozepur & Amritsar. The news of 'disassociation' at a moment when M.E.S. workers along with all Central Government employees are faced with heavy retrenchment, wage-cut, work-load and victimisation and the movement of Central Government employees is definitely intensifying, is horrible and shocking.

Will you please arrange to obtain a detailed report from the EP Committee and issue necessary instruction, under advice to us.

WEST BENGAL

I approached BPTUC and on their instructions to Central Government Employees Federation, Bengal branch in September last to revive activities in M.E.S. at Calcutta and other places in Bengal. I met the President Com. D.P. Bose - gave him necessary information, and then afterwards sent some more documents and literature on the given address by Regd. post.

On my last visit to Calcutta in November I was told that nothing has been done - nobody had cared to approach - so much so that even this was not brought to the notice of the Fraction concerned. I again wrote to the BPTUCS and was replied verbally through Mrs. Moitra that the matter will be dealt with by the CGEU, Bengal. Again I gave necessary information to Mrs. Moitra the only available comrade a V.P. of the AIFCGEU - told her to arrange regular reports being sent to me. But to this day even my reminders to the AIFCGEU officials has failed to bring any reply - obviously because no move has been made.

May Bengal Committee be reminded about this and report called for.

BIHAR

We have got three centres in Bihar viz. Ranchi, Dinapore, and Ramgarh. The former two are important centres. In Ranchi and Ramgarh we had branches but are defunct now. I have sent our Treasurer there to re-organise Ranchi but one of the difficulties there is that no comrade is available for guidance on the spot in their day to day functioning and education. This had been the handicap there for the last two years. This is one of the principle reasons why this unit could not function regularly. Due to large scale gictimisation and terrorisation - with no ideological training to the lower middle and semi-proletariat class - they are apt to succumb to it.

I may also bring to the notice of Bihar Committee that Com. A Sanyal, Storekeeper, a PM of Ranchi, now serving at Ramgarh has left all union work out of fear of victimisation for the last one and half year. He is totally demoralized and various attempts by me to revitalise him through letters and personal talk have borne no fruit at all. He has completely surrendered to the enemy - the officials of the MES.

May Bihar Committee be asked to arrange for reviving MES union activities at Ranchi and Dinapore and fix up in direct contact with the undersigned through UP Committee.

DELHI:

Delhi CPWD Workers' union officials have contact with local MES workers and some more contacts were given to them in August last. They were agreed to work in MES Delhi Cantt. on hearing from Delhi Committee - which it appears neither has posted any part timer comrade on MES nor directed CPWD comrades to work in MES also. The terms of service, categories of CPWD and MES are very much identical and in Delhi MES work was in fact done by CPWD for three years from 1943 to 1946 and so CPWD comrades are fully conversant with the places and workers of MES. It is obvious my notes to Delhi Committee have virtually remained unattended.

May Delhi Committee be directed to take up MES work immediately.

CENTRAL PROVINCES

Jubbulpore and Kamptee (Nagpur) are MES centres. Com. R.L. Bajoria was working on this front but owing to his being arrested and then victimisation of certain leaders the work was given up. The interval of two years leaves no link but with the help of Com. A.K. Goswami (a victimised MES leader and now timber businessman of Bilaspur - I am not sure whether he is a PM or not but must certainly be a sympathiser) further contacts can be established and work resumed.

May C.P. Committee be directed accordingly.

MADHYABHARAT:

We had a branch at Mhow and Nasirabad with one D.K. Deshpande, 517 Balchand building as Secretary at Mhow. But he is silent since past eight months. I had given his address to the reps. of Madhyabharat to Calcutta Peace Congress to ~~enquire~~ enquire and inform but have not heard anything. A new office MES (Garrison Engineers) has been opened at Indore.

May Madhyabharat Committee be asked to enquire at Mhow and begin work at both the places.

ASSAM AND MADRAS

Assam has only one MES Centre - Shillong. With work in West Bengal intensifying - we will be able to bring Shillong MES in line without much difficulty.

In Madras province, we have several centres without any branch. With work in Bombay and Poona started, we hope to activate Madras centres. Any help required at that stage will be sought.

I am enclosing more than one copy of this note for forwarding extracts to the various provincial committees for report and action. Literature and demands of MES workers are already known to the provinces where some work has been done in the past while the rest are getting through branches of AIFCGEU. On establishment of direct contacts with the AIMES WU, La-Touche Road, Lucknow, circulars, membership forms, constitution etc. will be sent.

With greetings !

Frat. Yours,  
Das.

P.S. - Bombay

I sent a note to HPTUC and am informed that it has been taken note of. From AIFCGEU, Bom. branch source I learn some contacts have also been established. I have very recently sent a letter received by me from Poona, which shows the anxiety of MES workers impending retrenchment. It is now upto us (in this case local comrades) to explain them the correct thesis and bring them on the forefront. Let me hope it will be done/ in the right earnest.



For Secretary,  
Central T.U. Fraction.

8.1.50

Dear Comrade,

Lal Salams.

We are sending you a note prepared about the position of our work in the M.E.S. by "Com. Das," the General Secretary of the All-India M.E.S. workers' union.

This comrade - a P.M. and a victimised M.E.S. employee, has been making efforts to revive work in the M.E.S. in UP, which we have sorely neglected since April '48.

He has all along been trying to keep in touch with M.E.S. PMs and union workers in the other Provinces and has been trying to help and guide them, some time even by personally ~~xxx~~ visiting some of the Provinces.

As his note shows, it seems that in other Provinces too the contact of the Party has been cut off from the comrades in the M.E.S. The repeated efforts of Com. Das to get these contacts reformed have not yet been successful.

Meanwhile, the A.I.M.E.S. union has been affiliated to the AITUC and has also become one of the constituents of the All India Central Government Employees Federation.

As ~~xxx~~ he has told us, like elsewhere, the workers of the M.E.S. all over UP and in other Provinces have been constantly fighting against Government attacks specially retrenchment and have won notable successes in at least some of the centres.

But in our absence, either vacillating clerks, whom we in the pre-Second Congress period, boosted up as leaders, seek to betray the strike in funk, or INTUC or Socialist leaders try to infiltrate into the ranks to sabotage the struggles and capture the unions. However, so far, except for a couple of places, the M.E.S. workers have everywhere begun to come to the fore in these struggles and have been keeping the INTUC and Socialists at arm's length. Recently at Allahabad, they actually threw out a Congress Constituent Assembly Member from the Union Presidentship.

Considering both their strategic position in the working-class struggle - of the Central Government employees and the fact that our Red Flag leaders like Com. Dange and Harish Tewari etc. who were prominent and active in originally organising it in 1947 and who are still remembered by the M.E.S. workers and employees with respect and the latest development of M.E.S. union joining the AITUC, we would request you to kindly impress upon the Provincial T.U. Fractions of Bengal, Bihar, East Punjab, Delhi, CP, Madhyabharat, Assam, Madras and Bombay to pay serious attention to the task of reviving contacts with the M.E.S. unions and guiding our comrades there in functioning the unions and leading and organising ~~the~~ struggles of the M.E.S. workers and employees.

Please also ask them to instruct their O.G. MES comrades to contact the office of the A.I.M.E.S. workers' union, 32 Latouche Road, Lucknow and send their their quotas and reports etc.

Com. Das proposes to convene a meeting of the General Council of the A.I.M.E.S. in Feb. first week and to hold the A.I.M.E.S. workers' conference sometime in March at Behra Dun.

But for this to be a success, it is necessary for the other Provincial Fractions to move their local M.E.S. comrades and the Provincial T.U.Cs, in order to revive our comrades active work and intervention in the day to day resistance and struggles of the M.E.S. workers and employees, as a beginning of our drive in the M.E.S. for carrying out the other tasks in connection with the All India Conference and their all-India struggle against retrenchment etc. and for their demands.

We hope you would kindly expedite the despatch of letters to the Provinces.

Greetings,  
Basant.

P.S: One copy is for the PHQ and the other for the AITUC Fraction Centre.

B.