MES BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (REGD)
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Circular No. 38 Dated: 16th October 2026

To Members,

Minutes of Virtual Conference Meeting of office bearers held on 2nd September 2026.

The following Office Bearers were present.

1. Sh. G.S. Mago
2. Sh. Sandeep Srivastava
3. Sh. Kumar Ashok
4. Sh. C. Balasatish
5. Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta
6. Sh. Gurvinder Singh Oberoi
7. Sh. Sh. Pankaj Kr. Prahladka
8. Sh. Vinod Behl
9. Sh. Deepak M. Balkawade
10. Sh. M. Sundararajan
11. Sh. Mahesh Jain

Opening Address by Sh. G.S. Mago

Good evening, everyone.

Sh G.S Mago. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for joining this meeting convened at the initiative of Shri Sandeep Srivastava to deliberate upon the prevailing situation and discuss the way forward.

As you are all aware, we have been making sustained efforts to pursue this matter with the concerned authorities. The E-in-C had given us three opportunities for meetings; however, despite our repeated follow-ups and continued efforts, the matter has unfortunately remained unresolved, with no tangible progress on the ground. Each time, the matter has been deferred, resulting in further delays and uncertainty.

The last date indicated by the E-in-C was **24th August 2026**. Subsequently, as you are already aware, we formally communicated to the concerned authorities through a letter regarding the cancellation of the proposed meeting and suggested **11th September 2026** as the preferred date for the next meeting. Regrettably, we have not received any response or formal communication from their side to date.

Furthermore, during my discussion with the E-in-C, I was informed that the minutes of the meeting had already been prepared and forwarded to DGW for signature. However, despite the completion of this important procedural step, we have yet to receive any confirmation, feedback, or further communication from the E-in-C's office.

The objective of today's meeting is, therefore, to deliberate on the present circumstances, assess the progress made so far, and arrive at a clear and well-considered decision on the further course of action**.** I would now request Shri Shiv Kumar Gupta to kindly elaborate on the matter,

apprise us of the relevant developments, and share his valuable suggestions regarding the way forward.

Sh Sandeep Srivastava. First and foremost, I extend my sincere gratitude to each one of you for your valuable presence, active participation, and unwavering commitment to our collective cause. Your continued solidarity and perseverance are of paramount importance as we deliberate upon the issues that have remained unresolved despite our sustained efforts and repeated representations.

Let me begin by expressing my deep concern over the manner in which the office of the E-in-C has been functioning in relation to our pending matters. The responsiveness and institutional support that we had traditionally expected from the office appear to have diminished considerably. Our concerns seem to have been accorded a lower priority, and the overall state of affairs gives little indication of the urgency that our issues warrant. This prolonged inertia is particularly disheartening, given that we have consistently pursued the matter in a constructive and disciplined manner.

As you will recall, we had collectively resolved to convene our meetings every alternate month to review the status of our outstanding issues, assess the progress achieved, and determine the subsequent course of action. In accordance with that decision, a meeting should have been convened towards the end of September to take stock of the developments. However, in view of the prevailing circumstances, it is imperative that we carefully evaluate the outcome of the court hearing, together with any substantive developments arising from our proposed meeting with the E-in-C, before determining our future strategy.

At this juncture, I consider it necessary to candidly acknowledge that the degree of cooperation, responsiveness, and institutional support we had anticipated from the E-in-C's office has regrettably not materialised. Despite our repeated follow-ups, persistent efforts, and willingness to engage constructively, we have yet to witness any meaningful breakthrough. Our issues are neither exceptionally complicated nor administratively insurmountable; consequently, the inordinate delay in resolving them is difficult to comprehend and even more difficult to justify. Our foremost priority remains the renewal issue, which demands immediate attention and a time-bound resolution. Unfortunately, notwithstanding the passage of considerable time and the numerous efforts undertaken by us, the matter remains virtually where it stood at the outset. The absence of any concrete outcome from the E-in-C's office has not only prolonged the uncertainty but has also undermined our expectations of an expeditious and constructive resolution.

In this context, I would like to reiterate our previously agreed position in unequivocal terms, if a meeting with the E-in-C is not secured before 11th September 2026, we shall be constrained to proceed with the protest programme as already outlined.

Sh Shiv Kumar Gupta. Shri Sandeep Srivastava has comprehensively elucidated the entire matter. During our repeated meetings, we were initially under the impression that the E-in-C was giving due consideration to our representations; however, subsequent developments have regrettably dispelled that impression. In our meeting with the Western Command, our contentions were acknowledged, particularly our legitimate assertion that we cannot be subjected to the double jeopardy of being penalised twice for the cancellation of the tender.

I firmly believe that the E-in-C is unlikely to take any meaningful action on his own initiative. In these circumstances, it is incumbent upon us, as office bearers, to rise to the occasion and discharge our moral and organisational responsibilities with unity, conviction, and determination.

I invite all members to express their considered opinions openly and candidly. We must collectively deliberate upon the gravity of the situation and determine an appropriate course of

action. In my view, if our legitimate grievances continue to be disregarded, we should not hesitate to explore peaceful and democratic means of protest. A formal intimation may also be submitted to the E-in-C and the Delhi Police, as appropriate. At a time when even the prospect of public protest can command the attention of the authorities, a united and resolute expression of our grievances may prove instrumental in bringing the matter to the forefront and securing the attention it deserves.

I sincerely urge all members to share their views so that, through collective wisdom and mutual consensus, we may arrive at a considered decision that upholds the dignity of our organisation and safeguards the interests of our fraternity.

Sh. G.S. Mago. Approximately 20–30 files pertaining to the renewal of that particular class are still pending. Despite the passage of considerable time, the authorities concerned are refusing to process renewal applications submitted after the prescribed deadline, while simultaneously retaining these files without any conclusive action. This continued impasse is not only unjustified but is also creating unnecessary bottlenecks, prolonging uncertainty, and adversely affecting the interests of those concerned.

Let me make it unequivocally clear that anyone desirous of participating in the tendering process is entirely at liberty to do so. Should any query arise regarding the present status of these matters, we shall provide the requisite clarification, supported by the relevant facts and circumstances.

However, this prolonged and untenable situation cannot be permitted to continue indefinitely. It is imperative that we adopt a firm, decisive, and uncompromising approach to safeguard our collective interests and bring this matter to its logical conclusion**.**

I therefore urge all concerned to deliberate collectively, arrive at a clear and unified decision, and establish a consensus on the course of action to be pursued. Once a collective resolution has been reached, we shall formulate a comprehensive roadmap, identify the appropriate course of action, and proceed with determination, strategic clarity, and resolute coordination.

Sh. Kumar Ashok. As rightly pointed out by Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta ji, a Command-level meeting was convened wherein it was stated that a formal recommendation had already been forwarded from our end. Presumably, similar recommendations have also been submitted by the other Commands. However, despite these collective representations, the pace of progress remains disappointingly slow, with no tangible outcome emerging so far.

The unfortunate reality is that the E-in-C appears to be paying insufficient attention to our legitimate concerns, perhaps because he perceives us as being preoccupied with internal differences, mutual disagreements, and needless squabbles rather than presenting a united and resolute front. Our lack of cohesion is, regrettably, weakening our collective position and diminishing the urgency with which our concerns ought to be addressed.

I firmly believe that the way forward lies in collective resolve, strategic coordination, and assertive action. We must arrive at a consensus on the measures to be undertaken and pursue them with determination, ensuring that our legitimate demands are neither overlooked nor indefinitely relegated to the background.

Thank you.

Sh. Vinod Behl. My sole suggestion is that we must initiate the strongest possible nationwide action to demonstrate our collective resolve and determination. We should neither be swayed by hollow assurances nor fall prey to delaying tactics, as repeated promises without tangible

outcomes have only eroded our confidence. It is high time we recognised that the E-in-C's Branch is unlikely to deliver any meaningful resolution through the existing course of action.

If we are called for another meeting, we should carefully reconsider whether participation serves any purpose, rather than continuing to engage in repetitive discussions without concrete results. We cannot indefinitely run from pillar to post, pleading for what is rightfully due to us. The time for empty assurances is over; the time for decisive action has arrived.

We must unite behind the strongest possible course of action, including a nationwide shutdown or any other collective measure agreed upon by the members. Our approach must be firm, coordinated, and unequivocal, leaving no room for ambiguity about the seriousness of our demands.

Sh. Mahesh Jain. If we aspire to achieve a substantial and meaningful outcome, we must be prepared to adopt firm and decisive measures. All the Commands are duly forwarding the requisite documents and recommendations, yet the E-in-C continues to remain unresponsive, with no concrete action forthcoming.

In view of this persistent inaction, we should initiate preparations for a well-organised and impactful protest to assert our legitimate demands. If the members arrive at a collective consensus, we must move forward with determination, unity, and unwavering resolve.

Sh. G.S. Oberoi The first and foremost concern is the E-in-C's persistent indifference towards our legitimate grievances. His track record and functioning at various stations are well known to us, therefore, expecting a sudden change in his attitude would be nothing more than wishful thinking. We must shed all such illusions and adopt a firm, pragmatic approach.

I strongly advocate boycotting the meeting and reconsidering our participation in future departmental meetings until meaningful progress is achieved. A symbolic one-hour demonstration outside the E-in-C's office is unlikely to make any substantial impact. Instead, I propose a three-day tools-down strike**,** supported by effective mobilisation across all branches. Achieving even 80–90% participation would demonstrate our formidable collective strength.

Simultaneously, we should organise press conferences at various stations, culminating in a major media briefing in Delhi, to highlight our grievances through print, electronic, and social media. My point is simple: repeated appeals and placatory gestures have yielded no tangible results, and there is little reason to expect a different outcome now**.** The need of the hour is unity, strategic coordination, and decisive collective action to ensure that our legitimate demands receive the seriousness and attention they deserve.

Sh. Balasatish. A meaningful resolution will require us to seek the intervention of public representatives, particularly Members of Parliament. We should endeavour to secure supporting letters from at least ten MPs and submit a formal representation to the MP from Visakhapatnam, requesting intervention with the Defence Minister.

The representation should highlight the strategic importance of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam, and the difficulties faced by the personnel concerned, urging the Minister to intervene and ensure an early resolution. Support from an MP belonging to the ruling party could further strengthen our appeal.

This approach would escalate the matter to the highest appropriate level**,** demonstrating that despite repeated efforts to resolve the issue through the ENC, no satisfactory outcome has been achieved. We should also make it clear that, if the matter remains unresolved, we may be compelled to consider a collective tools-down strike as a last resort.

Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta. Sir, I suggest that we pursue both approaches simultaneously. As rightly pointed out by Sh. Balasatish ji, approaching Members of Parliament is essential and should be taken forward on priority. However, regarding Sh. G.S. Oberoi ji's proposal for a three-day tools-down strike, our past experience suggests that such actions often fail to achieve the desired impact. The GE reportedly exerts pressure on contractors to continue work, leaving them with little choice and ultimately undermining the effectiveness of the strike.

Therefore, while continuing our efforts to seek the intervention of MPs, we should simultaneously submit a formal notice regarding the proposed protest. Although a dharna may not be feasible due to the imposition of Section 144, a properly organised and duly notified protest could still generate significant attention and put the necessary pressure on the authorities to address our legitimate demands.

Sh. Pankaj Kr. Prahladka. In my considered opinion, staging a protest is unlikely to yield any tangible results, as nearly 90% of the contractors would continue their work regardless. This assessment is based on my decade-long experience and firsthand observations. I attempted similar measures in 2015–16 and on several occasions at other locations, but the outcome remained the same. Not a single contractor was willing to suspend work, which ultimately rendered the protest ineffective. Therefore, we must carefully evaluate the practical feasibility and likely impact of any proposed agitation before proceeding further.

Sh. Deepak Balkawade. Everyone has voiced their opinions, but we seem to be going around in circles without arriving at any concrete solution. We have had enough discussions and suggestions; what we need now is a practical, result-oriented course of action. Halting major projects alone may not produce the desired impact. Instead, we should consider whether suspending smaller works would be more effective in bringing the situation to the attention of the MES authorities. Only when the disruption is formally reported through the chain of command is there a possibility of the matter receiving the urgency it deserves.

Sh. G.S. Mago. A major contractor typically employs a workforce of 100–200 labourers, and operations continue at various sites even in the contractor's absence. Therefore, I believe that merely interrupting routine construction activities may not create the desired impact, particularly when the immediate consequences are not directly felt by the end users. The more pressing concern is the potential disruption of essential maintenance services, including electricity and water supply, which has been a subject of discussion. Any interruption in these services could have far reaching implications and bring the seriousness of our grievances to the attention of the concerned authorities.

However, our approach must remain strictly lawful, disciplined, and within the established rules and regulations**.** We must neither take the law into our own hands nor undertake any action that compromises public safety or essential services. Our objective should be to pursue a firm, coordinated, and effective course of action that compels the authorities to acknowledge our concerns and work towards a meaningful resolution.

Sh. M. Sundararajan Good evening, everyone. In my considered opinion, regardless of the representations we make, the present E-in-C appears unlikely to respond favourably to our concerns or those of MES BAI. Unfortunately, our greatest weakness at this juncture is our lack of unity. As Sh. Balasatish ji rightly pointed out, our internal differences and the delay in conducting association elections have weakened our collective position. The authorities are well aware of both our strengths and our shortcomings, and this lack of cohesion is working to our disadvantage.

Therefore, I firmly believe that strengthening our association and conducting elections at the earliest must be our foremost priorities**.** Only a united and democratically strengthened organisation can effectively represent our collective interests.

Regarding contract renewals, particularly in the ADG Chennai jurisdiction, the number of cancellation cases appears relatively small, perhaps one or two. The principal issue seems to be the submission of renewal applications after the prescribed deadline. In several cases, applications were reportedly submitted well beyond 30 November, with some even arriving in January or February.

During my recent discussions with officials in the Wellington area, I gathered that even certain senior officers, including the Joint DG and Director of Contracts, may be reluctant to move the renewal files forward because of apprehensions regarding the E-in-C's position. If this situation persists, achieving a favourable outcome through routine departmental channels alone may prove extremely difficult.

Nevertheless, we must demonstrate our collective strength and make our grievances heard. My suggestion is to organise a nationwide, one day tools down strike within the next 15 days**,** accompanied by a properly organised protest and press briefing. I believe a one day action would be more practical than a three-day strike, given the concerns regarding participation and the financial constraints already faced by our members.

In my view, suspending major construction projects worth Rs 500 crore or Rs1,000 crore may not necessarily produce the desired impact, as contractors employing hundreds of labourers are unlikely to halt their operations readily. The more immediate concern is the maintenance segment, including water supply, sewage systems, and other essential services. Any collective action in these areas must, however, remain lawful and ensure that public safety and essential services are not jeopardised.

We should simultaneously approach Members of Parliament, secure their written representations, and seek the intervention of the Defence Ministry and the E-in-C's office. We could also establish a clear timeline for seeking a resolution and review our next steps if the matter remains unresolved.

I also wish to raise a practical concern regarding the proposed council meeting in Delhi. Members travelling from Coimbatore, Wellington, Kochi, and other southern locations must incur substantial expenditure at a time when the construction industry is already facing severe financial pressures. If the meeting merely repeats earlier discussions without producing concrete decisions, it will serve little purpose. Any council meeting must have a clear agenda, a definite action plan, and measurable outcomes.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that we must remain united and stand firmly behind the decisions taken by our President and Headquarters. Whatever course of action the association collectively decides upon, I am prepared to support it.

Thank you.

Sh. Sandeep Srivastava In my opinion, everyone has expressed their respective views, and we must now proceed with utmost caution, careful deliberation, and a well-defined strategy. Since we have already submitted a letter seeking an appointment on the 11th, we should wait until that date while simultaneously preparing an alternative course of action.

Personally, my experience with tools-down strikes and similar forms of protest has not been particularly encouraging. As everyone is aware, more than 70% of our branches have internal divisions, with one group participating in such actions while the other remains non-cooperative. This lack of unity significantly undermines the effectiveness of any collective initiative.

We have already witnessed how our painstaking efforts can go unrecognised. We prepared two comprehensive files containing meticulously organised, branch-wise representations, complete with tabs and supporting documents. Yet, when these files were submitted, the concerned officials did not even take the time to open them in our presence. Neither the DGW nor the Joint DG

appeared to examine the documents. Such a dismissive approach towards our collective efforts is deeply disappointing and reflects the lack of seriousness with which our grievances are being addressed.

Therefore, I propose that if we are not granted an appointment by the 11th, we should submit a formal letter on the 12th or 13th, announcing our intention to organise a peaceful, one-hour hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, Delhi, on the 20th or 22nd, subject to the necessary permissions. Our objective should be to ensure meaningful media coverage while demonstrating that the representatives present speak on behalf of 60–70 of our approximately 80 branches nationwide. We should clearly identify our office bearers, their designations, and the legitimate concerns affecting our members.

During my discussions with a Chief Engineer, I made it clear that while we do not deny that mistakes may have occurred in individual cases, the predicament of our builders must also be understood. With approximately 80 branches and thousands of members across the country, it is neither practical nor fair to expect us to control every individual contractor's actions.

We must also recognise the wider economic implications. A single contractor's business sustains the livelihoods of not only the contractor and their family but also those of engineers, clerical staff, labourers, accountants, steel suppliers, and numerous other associated workers. In many cases, the livelihood of 15–20 people or more may depend directly on a single contracting business. Any action that jeopardises these livelihoods has consequences extending far beyond the contractor concerned.

Our principal grievance is that numerous builders believe they are being collectively penalised for shortcomings attributable to specific individuals or projects. If the E-in-C has taken a firm position against granting renewals, why has a definitive decision or formal communication not been issued? For the past six months, we have repeatedly heard explanations, objections, and assurances, yet the matter remains unresolved.

The Udhampur hospital project, along with other delayed projects, has repeatedly been cited as a justification. We acknowledge that delays have occurred in certain cases. However**,** is it justifiable to penalise thousands of contractors nationwide for the shortcomings of a handful of individual contractors? Instead of addressing specific cases on their merits, the present approach appears to be adversely affecting the wider contracting fraternity.

We must not overlook the fact that our builders have successfully completed hundreds of projects some on schedule, some ahead of schedule, and others after delays. They have also undertaken and completed numerous challenging projects, including works that were previously stalled or complicated. These contributions deserve due consideration rather than blanket treatment based on isolated instances of failure.

To be fair, there may be a limited number of cases in which contractors failed to submit renewal applications within the prescribed deadline, including by 31 December. Such cases should be examined separately on their individual merits. However, where contractors submitted their applications within the stipulated period, and where the department has already imposed penalties, forfeited earnest money deposits (EMDs), or recovered applicable compensation for contractual defaults, the rationale for further punitive action must be clearly established.

Another important point we raised, which the DGW appeared to understand immediately, concerns the practical implications of renewals granted up to 2026. If a contractor fails to execute a tender awarded under such a renewal, when would the department impose the relevant penalty in 2032? By then, the contractor may no longer even be in the contracting business. This illustrates the need for a clear, consistent, and time bound policy rather than prolonged uncertainty.

Unfortunately, the prevailing situation gives the impression that we are being taken around in circles, with neither a definitive decision nor a clear timeline for resolution. We cannot allow this uncertainty to continue indefinitely.

My considered suggestion is that, if no appointment is granted by the 11th, we should submit a formal notice on the 12th or 13th, announcing a peaceful, one-hour hunger strike at Jantar Mantar on a mutually agreed date. This would demonstrate our seriousness, attract appropriate media attention, and communicate our collective concerns without resorting to an indefinite or potentially ineffective agitation.

Ultimately, the decision rests with all of us. We may have differing opinions on the appropriate course of action, but we must strive to reach a collective consensus and move forward with unity, discipline, and determination. Our objective should be clear to secure a fair, transparent, and time-bound resolution that protects the legitimate interests and livelihoods of contractors across the country.

Sh. G.S. Mago First and foremost, it is encouraging to note that, despite two members expressing their inability to attend, eleven members are present at this meeting. Sadly, we have also lost one of our colleagues. Nevertheless, we have nearly full representation, which reflects the commitment and dedication of our members towards addressing the issues confronting us.

As you are aware, we have already written to the DMA seeking an appointment. I understand that another letter may also have been circulated today, requesting an appointment with the Defence Secretary. These initiatives reflect our continued efforts to secure intervention at the appropriate level and obtain a meaningful resolution to our long-pending grievances.

With regard to the concerns raised by Sh. Mr. Sundararajan ji and Sh. Kumar Ashok ji regarding MESBAI's role and recognition, I believe everyone must understand the background and rationale behind our approach. Formal correspondence is continuing, meetings are being scheduled at regular intervals, and communications are being exchanged to convey policy-related matters and other relevant information. When we submitted our memorandum, the authorities took note of the points raised and subsequently informed us that the issues had been flagged and forwarded to the E-in-C for his consideration and necessary action. Regarding MESBAI's recognition, we remain in regular contact with the authorities. We have already held three meetings with the E-in-C, and further discussions are continuing. The correspondence we receive and the meetings being scheduled demonstrate that our engagement with the authorities remains ongoing.

I would also like to refer to the post circulated in connection with the memorandum, as mentioned by Sh. Sandeep Srivastava ji. Several senior officials reportedly appreciated the substance of the message and considered it an effective way of bringing the issue into the open. However, since the MES logo appeared on the material, we categorically clarified that the post was neither an official communication from MESBAI nor issued under its authority. That clarification is a separate matter and should not distract us from our principal objectives.

Sh. Sundararajan ji also referred to information received from officials who had visited the E-in-C's office, suggesting that several officers may be reluctant to take decisions because of apprehensions regarding the consequences. Having worked within the system for many years, we understand that officers are more likely to take initiative when they have adequate support and clarity of direction. When they are expected to undertake work without sufficient backing and subsequently face criticism without achieving tangible results, their motivation inevitably suffers. The situation is further complicated by staff shortages and administrative constraints. The office appears to have limited personnel, each facing individual circumstances that may affect their capacity to contribute effectively. Meanwhile, the Joint DG continues to assign various tasks, some of which may be difficult to complete under the existing conditions. Nevertheless, based on our

interactions and the information available to us, the officers concerned appear to be continuing to discharge their essential responsibilities.

The AGM has already deliberated on the proposed course of action, and the matter has been discussed again today. Since we have formally sought an appointment by 11 September, initiating any action before that date could be perceived as premature or inconsistent with the assurance already conveyed. Accordingly, we should wait until 11 September and, in the absence of any positive development, proceed with the next course of action without unnecessary delay. We need not postpone the decision merely to convene another meeting, provided the proposed action has the requisite collective approval. I therefore seek the support and authorisation of all members to enable Headquarters to initiate the necessary preparations for the proposed protest.

As Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta ji rightly pointed out, there is an important distinction between notifying the authorities of our intention to organise a dharna and actually proceeding with it. Whether the protest ultimately takes place is a separate consideration. However, submitting a formal application to the appropriate police authorities, with a copy endorsed to the E-in-C, would ensure that our intentions are communicated transparently through the proper channels. Such a step would place the matter formally on record, convey the seriousness of MESBAI's concerns, and encourage the authorities to reconsider their approach and engage with us more constructively.

We have also received indications that concerns exist regarding the distinction between military and civilian responsibilities and the possibility of accountability being attributed to civilian personnel. We must handle this sensitive issue with maturity and discretion. Our communications should remain measured, professional, and focused on the substance of our grievances. We must avoid divisive language or unnecessary distinctions between individuals and departments. We all operate within the same institutional framework, and our objective should be to resolve the issue without compromising professional relationships or mutual respect. At the same time, we must not allow apprehensions or uncertainty to weaken our collective resolve. Our representations are receiving attention, and we must channel that attention into constructive dialogue and a concrete resolution.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to all the branches that have supported this initiative and responded to Headquarters' communications. Approximately 95% of the branches have acknowledged the matter and extended their cooperation. The few outstanding responses appear to be attributable to circumstances such as flooding in Upper Assam or isolated instances of non-response. This level of participation demonstrates that the message has reached almost the entire organisation. We are grateful to every branch for its cooperation and commitment.

In view of the above, I seek the members' approval to proceed, after 11 September, with submitting the requisite application to the police authorities for permission to organise the proposed dharna, subject to applicable requirements. Furthermore, as decided during the AGM, we are required to provide 21 days' notice for convening the Council meeting. We must therefore finalise the dates and initiate the necessary arrangements without further delay.

I have taken note of Sh. Sundararajan ji's concerns regarding the considerable travel expenditure incurred by members travelling from distant locations, particularly those from the southern regions. This is a genuine concern, especially given the financial pressures currently faced by contractors. The longstanding issue of reimbursement for travel and meeting-related expenses deserves serious consideration and should be addressed through an appropriate policy. Nevertheless, since several important matters require deliberation and formal decisions, convening the Council meeting remains necessary.

As a preliminary proposal, we could consider **26, 27, and 28 September**, subject to members' availability and confirmation of the arrangements. Alternatively, we could consider

28 September as the principal meeting date if that proves more convenient. I request all members to examine these proposals and convey their views so that we can arrive at a collective decision and proceed accordingly.

Our priority must be to remain united, act in accordance with the decisions of the association, and pursue a clear, time-bound strategy that leads to a fair and meaningful resolution of our long-standing concerns.

Sh. Sandeep Srivastava. I will check the availability, Mr. Mago, and share the details in this group tomorrow once everything has been confirmed.

Sh. G.S. Mago. That covers the first point. The second concerns the Council meeting. Whatever information we receive regarding the developments whether by this evening, tomorrow, the day after, or by the 11th, I will immediately share it with all of you so that everyone remains informed of the latest position.

It has been mentioned that the working style of E-in-C office has been well known, and that people across the department are familiar the prevailing circumstances and manner of functioning have been a matter of concern for so many, we must realistically assess what can be achieved through repeated representations alone. We cannot afford to base our strategy on the expectation that the situation will change automatically.

Consider, for instance, the change in the DGW's appointment. During our discussions, particularly by the second meeting, the newly appointed DGW had reportedly agreed with our proposal and indicated that he would approve and forward the file. If a senior officer who was expected to facilitate the process had agreed to the recommendation, one would reasonably have anticipated some positive movement. Yet, despite these discussions and assurances, no meaningful action has followed. This raises serious questions about the decision-making process and the obstacles preventing the matter from progressing.

The established departmental procedure provides for specific channels and designated authorities to deal with different categories of work. Design matters are handled by the Design Director, supply related issues are dealt with by the BSO, and contractual matters are processed through the designated DGs, Joint DGs, and other competent authorities within the prescribed hierarchy. However, instead of allowing the established mechanism to function efficiently, a four member board has reportedly been constituted to examine these matters. This additional layer of scrutiny appears to be creating further procedural bottlenecks rather than expediting decisions.

We are living in an era of digital communication, where timely responses and prompt decision-making are the norm. However, the present arrangement appears to be hampered by coordination difficulties and administrative delays. When a committee consists of four members, the absence or unavailability of even one member can impede the entire process. Naturally, every officer has other responsibilities, and coordinating the schedules of all four members can become challenging. Consequently, files remain unattended for two, three, or even four months, defeating the very purpose of expediting the process.

Sh. G.S. Mago. We must not allow any semblance of weakness or indecisiveness to undermine our collective resolve. Irrespective of how others perceive our efforts, we have constituted this forum with a clear and legitimate objective: to safeguard the interests, dignity, and livelihoods of the builders' community. We are not pursuing any personal agenda or vested interest; our sole purpose is to secure justice for our fraternity. As Sh. Vinod Behl ji rightly observed, we have had enough of running from pillar to post and repeatedly pleading for what we believe are our legitimate rights.

While the prevailing circumstances impose certain constraints, we must operate within the established framework of democratic principles, institutional decorum, and due process. Our

approach must therefore be measured yet resolute, proceeding systematically without compromising our determination or diluting our demands.

With these words, I seek the unanimous support, confidence, and approval of all members to proceed with the two proposed initiatives. We shall keep everyone apprised of subsequent developments and ensure that all further steps are undertaken in consultation with the members and in accordance with the collective decisions of the forum.

I sincerely appreciate the enthusiastic participation and valuable contributions of everyone present. Let us maintain this spirit of unity, solidarity, and unwavering commitment as we move forward. I request you all to confirm the proposed dates at the earliest so that we can initiate the necessary preparations for the next course of action, including the proposed sit in protest, press conference, and other appropriate measures. Thank you all for your valuable participation and continued support.

Sh. Sandeep Srivastava The four or five of us can discuss the matter among ourselves and drawing on the precedent established during Mr.Mahana's tenure, initiate the necessary preparations. If we do not receive an appointment by the 11th, we can proceed with submitting a formal letter to the Deputy Commissioner or the appropriate authority in Delhi, complete the requisite formalities, and provide the necessary copies to the concerned officials. This will enable us to move forward with the preparations in a systematic and timely manner.

Sh. G.S. Mago. You are all well aware of the procedures involved and the formalities that need to be completed. With regard to the proposed press conference, I would like to reiterate the point raised by Sh. Vinod Behl ji regarding the importance of holding a physical meeting. Once the deadline of the 11th has passed and we have completed the next two proposed steps, we should finalise a date for the third step the press conference at the Press Club of India.

Initially, we had anticipated that the Council meeting would take place during this period, providing an opportunity for a substantial gathering of members and meaningful deliberations. However, as has been pointed out, national media representatives may not attend press conferences organised at ordinary venues, resulting in limited coverage by local media and consequently diminishing their overall impact. Therefore, holding the press conference at the Press Club of India would be a more effective way of bringing our concerns to the attention of the national media.

The question of expenditure can be considered separately; our primary objective should be to ensure that our message reaches the appropriate audience with maximum impact. I therefore propose that we convene a physical meeting of the Headquarters office-bearers on the same day, deliberate on the key issues, finalise our collective position, and make the necessary preparations before proceeding with the press conference.

This approach would ensure better coordination, a consistent message, and a more purposeful presentation of our grievances before the media. That is my suggestion. Sh Shiv Kumar Gupta ji, I would now request you to share your views on the matter.

Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta. That is perfectly acceptable, Sir, and this is indeed the established practice. At the Press Club of India, invitations are extended to both national and local media representatives, including journalists from leading television channels and print publications. However, organising such an event involves certain expenses, including arrangements for lunch and customary mementoes for the media representatives. The venue can accommodate approximately 50–100 journalists, depending on the final arrangements, and all 14 office-bearers of our association would be present. Given the venue's capacity constraints, it would not be practical to invite a large number of additional members.

It is therefore essential that we prepare thoroughly, clearly articulate our position, and ensure that all relevant facts and supporting information are readily available. Media representatives are likely to raise searching questions, and we must be adequately prepared to respond with clarity, confidence, and consistency.

Furthermore, the Press Club must be informed at least 15 days in advance. I suggest that we finalise the date, complete the necessary formalities, and confirm the arrangements at the earliest. We had initiated the booking process earlier, but it remained incomplete. We should now resume the process and secure the venue without further delay. If necessary, we can convene a brief meeting immediately after this discussion to finalise the outstanding details and move forward decisively.

Sh. G.S. Mago. Alright, that is agreed. The meeting of our Headquarters office-bearers will be scheduled at the Headquarters on the same day as the press conference, once the date is finalised with the Press Club of India.



(Sandeep Srivastava)
Hony. Gen. Secretary
HQ, MES BAI