

## **Transcriptive Note**

### **M. Muniandy (Madurai)**

(The interview took place on 15 March 2005 in Hotel Duke, Madurai in the afternoon. The respondent himself took the trouble of coming to the hotel, and displayed great interest. Due to language problem, the respondent spoke in Tamil, which was interpreted into English by one of his colleagues. He was interviewed by Anil Rajimwale.)

My father was himself a timekeeper in Harvey Mills long back. I became an electrician. It was while working in a spinning mill that I came in contact with the T.U. leaders eg. Balu, Ratnam, AKG and others.

It was since 1941 that I began my work of organizing the T.U.S. In those times, there were no places or offices; therefore we had to hold our meetings among the coconut groves. As an electrician I had an advantage. I could go to every loom for electric work and thus could talk to every worker. My father was a time-keeper in the same factory. One of the congress leaders who had his own union in the factory insisted and saw to it that my father was removed from the factory. But that only made the matters worse for the congress leader and his union. We took a firm resolve against him and formed our own AITUC, union.

I participated in the 1942 movement. Myself being an electrician made it easier.

Chakkarai Chettiar, the famous T.U. leader, taught me a lot. In the late 40s, I began preparing demand charters and other documents, and it was appreciated by him. In 1948, I was asked to resign my job and become a whole-timer.

During the underground days, two of my co-workers were shot dead in one of the incidents by the police. I barely escaped.

We felicitated me of the famous Tamil Poets M. Manickam on behalf of AITUC and other organisation in a big gathering.

My association with P. T. Narayanan started in 1950 when he was made the office secretary.

I became a secretary of Textile Workers Union in Mahalakshmi Mills in 1950. We formed unions in several other mills, I kept working as AITUC activist right till recently.

#### **M. Muniandy (TN) Bio-note**

He was born in Madurai on 26 Aug 1920. His father worked as a time-keeper in Harvey Mills 1915 onwards, an important position for those times. Muni himself became an electrician after SSLC. He joined as an electrical operator in Kodairaman spinning mills in 1938. A. K. Gopalan took their classes in 1940 and asked them to work in the TU.

The union was started in 1941. Muniandy organised the meeting to establish the union in a coconut grove. It was easy for him to contact workers as an electrician.

He also participated in 1942 movements. He worked with Chakkarai Chettiar in TU movement. He barely escaped being shot dead in 1948; two of his colleagues were shot dead by police. He operated union office in 1950. He became secretary of Textile Workers Union in Mahalakshmi Mills. There was a big struggle in 1965-66. Then he formed an AITUC union in Sitalakshmi Mills, a difficult thing to do.

Though he went to CPI (M) for sometime, he remained in the AITUC continuously till today.