

Organ of Federation of Medical And Sales Representatives' Associations of India

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1st April, 2021

Nationwide protest against changes in labour laws

On the occasion of May Day, 2021

On this May Day FMRAI greets all its readers and all the field workers employed in different companies across the industries in all the states and union territories of the country. FMRAI greets all section of workers and employees including those who are working in the field or in the offices in cities, towns and countryside in all terrain in the country. FMRAI greets all the workers who have been thrown out from their jobs by their employers, during and before the gory pandemic virus outbreak. FMRAI greets all the workers who have scarified their jobs or those who have been victimized outrageously or have been persecuted in their magnificent fight for rights. FMRAI notes with concern that this May Day coincides with the shocking rise in poverty, unemployment and inequality in India and throughout the world especially during the corona virus outbreak. While the neoliberal economy continues to go on rampage and continues to wreck the lives and livelihood, the pandemic and unwarned sudden lockdown has put the people in unexampled distress, further and more. FMRAI notes with dismay that in spite of great advances in science and technology the basic needs of the people remains unfulfilled. In the path of neoliberal economy the ruling classes in India are making people purchase every item of basic needs including health, education, housing, and food. They want to say goodbye to the concept and ideal of compassionate welfare state.

This pandemic has further exposed the cruel nature of Indian version of capitalism where age old public healthcare system is being dismantled to make room for insurance-based healthcare system. The government is crippling the Public healthcare system with a view to give more and more space to the private hospitals. FMRAI notes with great disquiet that the vaccine, which all along was free and universal in independent India is being open for reckless private profit. FMRAI expresses its strong nursing home and corporate

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Obituary

The deadly disease of Covid 19 seems to have been taking its toll on the Field workers too, irrespective of their age. At this time of second wave death-news keep pouring in from all over the country. Retired field workers, leaders in their primes or young men who joined this profession only a few years back, succumbed to death. We are extremely shocked and pained to report this death news.

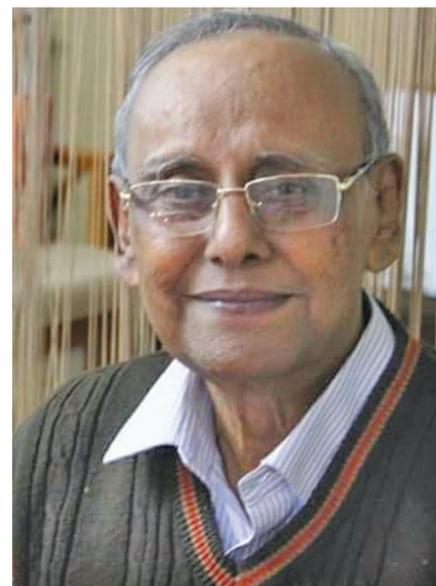
FMRAI appeals to all members and their family members to take utmost care to avert the attack of this virus.

N I Joseph

On 30 April, 2021, N I Joseph, former President of FMRAI passed away in Bengaluru due to heart attack. He was 86. He was suffering from kidney ailments and was undergoing dialysis. He left behind two sons, daughter-in-laws, grandchildren and innumerable number of his admirers.

His rich contribution in unionising medical and sales representatives and strengthening FMRAI shall be written in golden letters in the history of field workers movement.

He joined as Medical Representative in Kerala during late fifties and later on joined Roche in 1965. He played a significant role in the transition of medical and sales representatives from the scattered and unorganized individuals to that of conscious, organised class of employees. Individual victimisation including



termination in those days affected his mind and prompted him to unify this section in a trade union. Ultimately, Kerala Medical Representatives' Association got registered under Trade Union Act, in which he was an important contributor along with others. By that time, all India organisations, FMRAI came into existence and KMRA got integrated to it.

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1st April, 2021, Punjab, PCMSRU



1st April, 2021, Lucknow, UPMSRA



1st April, 2021, Kakinada, APMSRU



1st April, 2021, Bhopal, MPMSRU

While all the sections of workers are passing through a period of inhuman suffering during the current situation, especially during and after the pandemic, job loss, retrenchment, wage cut

and termination and the newly designed digitalization spree introducing newer working condition has increased sufferings manifold. Unplanned lockdown had put the workers

in great distress and exposed to virus in thousands. But pain and sufferings of the workers have not created any impact to the conscience on the Government

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Tripartite wage settlement in Dey's Medical



The 8th Tripartite wage settlement was signed on 12th April 2021, in the Labour Department of Government of West Bengal between the management of Dey's Medical and the Negotiating Committee of FMRAI after 11 rounds of protracted negotiation on the Charter of Demands for the Sales Promotion Employees of both Pharma and Consumer Product Division numbering around 400. FMRAI General Secretary was present on the occasion.

The Pay Scale shall be revised from 1st January 2019 and the retrospective benefits of the settlement shall be paid in 2 installments, before June 2021. This settlement is valid for 4 years and ends on 31st December 2022. There is increase in all heads of pay starting from basic, FDA, VDA, HRA, Kit and Education Allowance, Service Benefit Allowance, Vehicle Maintenance Allowance, sample storage allowance, Medical Allowance, LTA etc. The average benefit of

the settlement is Rs.2047 excluding statutory benefits. Both divisions, Pharma and Consumer division shall continue to have separate Grievance committee meetings. The revision of daily allowance and rate of km travel fare is settled separately every 2 years, the upward revision of which is pending with effect from 1st January 2020. FMRAI greets all the sales promotion employees of Dey's for remaining united during the long period of negotiations,

Hubris and indifference in the time of awful disease

'We resisted the virus spread significantly and utilized the opportunity to improve our health infrastructure' stated the Prime Minister, addressing the 18th convocation of Tezpur University virtually, in January, 2021. Referring to the victory over corona virus epidemic in India, in parliament in February, PM Modi asserted that **'... India, to save its citizens, fought an unknown enemy. The glory of winning that fight does not go to any government or individual. But the credit goes to India'** (NDTV, 08.02.21). In Jan Aushadhi Diwas in March Mr. Modi, took pride that **'the whole world is now taking India seriously after Covid pandemic. India has now turned world's pharmacy. During the Covid-19 period, India has earned the confidence of the whole world'** (Mumbai mirror, 07.03.21). These three statements, read along with statements of the Health minister, **'We are in the "end game" of the Covid-19 pandemic in India'**, Harsh Vardhan, addressing Delhi Medical Association's annual conference, India Today, quoting PTI, 07.03.21) and other members of the council of ministers, made it amply clear that the government presumed that, firstly, India has won over the pandemic, secondly, India has mesmerized the international community by its feat of activities, thirdly, improved its health infrastructure, fourthly, saved people at home, and also saved millions of lives across the world. All these assumptions were proved wrong very soon, except one assertion: **glory of winning the epidemic will not be given to the government or to any individual.** Government removed all restrictions on reckless gathering and acted in a manner that enormously changed social behavior. Crowded election rallies were organized. Massive religious gathering like Kumbh Mela was supported materially by the state and the central government. Pooh-pooh experts might have told the government that India has developed 'herd immunity' and the virus threat is over. And the second wave of horrible virus came in various parts of the country with full force; the head of the states ignored the wave and they frequented the states like Assam and West Bengal and addressed no-holds-barred crowded rallies. While we write this, thousands of sordid stories are coming from across the country. Visuals and tales of ruined families, grief-stricken families are pouring in every minute. People die for dearth of bed, for lack oxygen supply. People run from pillar to post to get oxygen, to get a bed or to get one ambulance. People die without medical help before the very eyes of the helpless family members. Medicines costing Rs. 3000 are being sold at Rs. 30000 in the black market. Crematoria are overcrowded. Mass funerals are organized in several cities and town across the country. Hundreds of funeral pyres, lit together, make most tragic, most grievous, most despicable festival of light that India has never imagined. A hell has broken out across the nation. This was foretold by epidemiologists and public health experts. They warned the people and the government, once again, that the virus threat exists and there may be a second or third wave. But the government of India ignored this warning in a manner which the brute colonialist in British India did not dare to do. What the colonial government

observed one hundred and fifty years back, in the **'Rules regarding the measures to be adopted on the outbreak of cholera or appearance of small-pox'**, stands relevant even for the current pandemic as well: **'When no cases of cholera have occurred for several days, an opinion is apt to prevail that the disease has disappeared, but it must be remembered that at certain seasons a lull is to be expected. With regards to it no decided rules can yet be laid down, but it is important that the fact of there having been no cases for some time should not lead to a relaxation of the necessary precautions and preparation in anticipation of a further and generally more severe outbreak'** (G.O.C.C. no.193, dated 3rd August, 1870) This very rule of making **'necessary precautions and preparation in anticipation of a further and generally more severe outbreak'** of the epidemic disease was severely ignored by the government of India. Was not 14 months of pandemic enough time for governments to build dozens of oxygen plants across the country? Is not India self-reliant enough in production of a breathing air as simple as oxygen? Kerala did it. Why not other governments? The central government embarked on this project fairly late. A tender was floated inviting for installation of 150 PSA oxygen plant in 14 states, on the 8th month of the pandemic, on 21st October, 2020. Twelve more plants were added later on. All these plants were expected to be installed in 45 days, but it did not. After four month of the tender only 33, out of 162, were actually installed. The same story of lack of timely intervention is repeated in preparation of hospital bed, availability of ambulance, medicines and vaccines, tracing, testing and treating. Take the example of Remdesivir. Only few companies including Dr. Reddy's Lab, Zydus Cadila, Cipla, and Hetero are making Remdesivir in India. Therefore, given this oligopoly, price is very high and there exists price discrepancy too. Same molecule sold at different prices. Price per 100 mg vials varies from Rs. 2800 to Rs. 5,400. This price difference, counted in the total course of therapy, becomes huge. Government slept on the issue of price discrepancy till the 14th month of the pandemic and then put some price curb only in the middle of April, 2021. Three is black marketing as well. Government is pro active to stop this menace in such a national disaster. Similar situation of monopoly, duopoly or oligopoly exists in case of Tocilizumab and Favipiravir as well. Government has not made fair use of compulsory licensing. Government of India continues to encourage brute monopoly in vaccine production too. In fact, duopoly of only two companies, Bharat Biotech (Covaxin) and Serum Institute of India (Covishield) in production, supply and sale of vaccine, has made very big short supply of vaccines. In addition to this, new vaccine policy (involving 18-44 years age group) of the government declares that two companies will sell 50% of their production openly to the corporate hospitals, private institutions and the state governments at differential prices. State governments will compete among themselves and with corporate hospitals to get the vaccines even after paying the price. The purchase Price for States for Covishield is Rs 400 per dose (later on price is revised to Rs.300) and

for Covaxin Rs 600 per dose, (which is reportedly revised later on) and purchase price for private hospitals for Covishield is Rs 600 per dose and for Covaxin Rs. 1,200 per dose while the central government will purchase them at Rs. 150 a dose. The people in the unlucky states, states that cannot manage fund or manage competition, for getting vaccines, have to go to private hospitals. Thus, the government's vaccine policy is not only a pitiable departure from the universal vaccination policy ever practiced in India, but also, arranged to assemble hefty profit for these two companies in the time of gory pandemic and mass destruction of human lives. It is even more surprising why the government cannot make these companies give vaccines at minimum prices when government has paid Rs. 4500 Crores, as advance, from the taxpayers' money, to these companies for up-gradation of their production capabilities. Former Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh wrote letter to present Prime minister suggesting ways to boost Covid-19 vaccination efforts in the country. The former PM requested the government to make use of compulsory licensing provisions of the Indian patent act to allow several other manufacturers to manufacture and supply the vaccine. In fact, many other organizations (including FMRAI) and informed persons across the country observed that two existing manufacturers are unable to meet the vaccine requirement of the country and government should give license to several other companies especially the large vaccine producing PSUs (including Bharat Immunological And Biological Corporation Ltd., Bulandsahr, Haffkine Pharmaceutical Corporation, Mumbai, HLL Biotech Ltd., Chennai, Human Biological Institute, Hyderabad, Central Research Institute, Kasauli, BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Guindy, Pasteur Institute Of India, Coonoor,) which have been kept idle in this national emergency. Recently, as late as 16th April, 2021, government has decided to ramp up production of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin by involving three PSUs, namely, Haffkine institute, Indian Immunological Ltd and Bharat Immunological and Biological Ltd. This decision, whatever late, is welcome. But similar decision should be taken in relation to other PSUs and government should issue license to allow them to manufacture Covishield. Covishield of Serum institute should not remain monopolized. Developing herd immunity is the only sure way to control this pandemic. It has two routes, one is spontaneous and another is planned. In spontaneous route there exists uncountable human suffering, dreadful nationwide spread of infection, death and devastation. Other route is inoculation of at least 70% of the people of the country (i.e., 98 crores) with vaccines. Therefore, Government must have to arrange 196 crores or more number of vaccines (two dosages each) right away. In this perspective only government should organize universal vaccination free of cost. Redirecting the money allocated for beatification of Delhi (Central vista Project) and money from PM care funds will be more than sufficient for this purpose. If government fails to do that people will continue to suffer and there will be raging anger. One should not forget that the cruelty and indifference in this phenomenal time will be judged very harshly by the history.

On the occasion of May Day, 2021

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dismay at the decisions of the government that the people of 18-44 age group have to pay hefty price for Corona virus Vaccines and that the central government drops all its responsibilities in controlling the pandemic through universal access to vaccination. FMRAI further expresses its strong displeasure that the government is encouraging monopoly, duopoly and oligopoly in production of certain medicines and corona virus vaccines by not giving license to other private and public sector manufacturers, even when there exists serious shortage of these medicines and vaccines. FMRAI further expresses its strong displeasure on the occasion of this May Day that the central government is taking administrative and policy decisions to allow and allocate the greedy corporations and vested interests to use this pandemic as an opportunity to satisfy their wild lust for limitless profit. During this pandemic only the central government unleashes wholesale attack on the farmers, workers and the common people by virtue of infamous Farm Bills, Labour Codes and wholesale privatization of the public sector. Removing all control on the greedy traders and unscrupulous landlord and capitalist classes, prices of all items of daily consumption, especially food and energy, have been allowed to go sky-high, amazingly at the behest of a government that is promised to serve the interest of the people. FMRAI is deeply troubled that the wages of the all section of workers including organized workers, the city-dwelling unorganized workers,

agricultural workers and the income of the farmers and the rural poor are declining enormously not only due to exceptional price rise but also due to reduced bargaining ability of labour in the face of pandemic and rise in unemployment. FMRAI expresses its strong resentment that the central government continues to betray, at the instance of the employers, the universal cause of 8 hour work for all section of workers including field workers. FMRAI resolves to intensify the struggle for 8 hours of work and for clocking 8 hours by the government. FMRAI takes opportunity to greet the people who are putting up huge resistance against the twin danger of neoliberalism and communalism throughout the country. FMRAI reaffirms its engagement with the glorious legacy of struggle and sacrifices in defense of the democratic rights of the people. FMRAI takes occasion to remember the martyrs of May Day and the people who have laid their lives for their struggle for democratic rights in the face of ugly authoritarianism. FMRAI takes pledge to intensify the struggle of the rights of the field workers, for improvement of their service conditions, working conditions and living conditions in the midst of this terrible pandemic. FMRAI takes pledge to fight for dignity at workplace. FMRAI will continue to fight for medicine access, for affordable health and medical care. FMRAI decries all atrocities and fanaticism in the name of caste, class or in the name of religion. FMRAI pledges to remain true to the heritage of organized trade union movement in the county.

1st April Nationwide protest

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that continues ignore the rightful interest of the workers. Instead of helping the distressed citizen and workers, instead of giving relief to them, the central Government and some state Governments, are taking away the existing rights of the workers and making draconian changes in the labour laws, all in the name of 'ease of doing business'. CITU gave call for observing protest day and organizing protests across the country on 1st April, 2021 to reject the newly enacted labour codes. At the call of CITU a large number of FMRAI members participated in the programmes of the protest day on 1st April 2021 where copies of the labour codes were burnt to mark the anger and wrath of the workers. Hours before the protest day central labour ministry, Government of India, announced that postponement of implementation of changed labour laws (four labour codes) in view of many State Government supposedly not framing rules of the labour Codes, as reported by the corporate media. Burning of replica of four labour codes took place at Begusarai, BSSRU. In Delhi, members of DMSRO

actively participated in protest programme. Protests were organized in front of the Government authorities and offices. In Lucknow UPMSRA members joined protest and burnt the copies of labour codes. PCMSRU members organized protest opposing labour codes at Labour office, Ludhiana. Members of MPMSRU in Bhopal burnt copies of the labour code. Similar programmes were organized at different units of MSMRA in Maharashtra. In TMSRU, burning of labour code took place in Khammam, Karimnagar, Warangal, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Jagtial, Adilabad, Hyderabad and Kamareddy, where the participation of members were in significant number. APMSRU members at Kurnool, Tanuku took part along with CITU and other trade unions. In Guntur unit of APMSRU members participated the programme in significant number. This protest day was observed at Vizag, Ongole, Anantapur, Bhimavaram, Eluru, Vijaywada, Kakinada and Rajahmundry. Against the labour codes demonstration as organized at medicine market by Tirunelveli unit of TNMSRA.

Obituary

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Abdul Zabbar



Abdul Zabbar was working at Deoria H.Q. He was working as Sales Promotion Employee of Medi Gram Healthcare. He died on 25.04.2021. We deeply condole and express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Pradeep Sharma



Pradeep Sharma based at Shahjahanpur was working as a field worker in Zydus Biochem. He died on 08.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Apoorva Srivastava



Apoorva Srivastava based at Allahabad was employed in Boehringer Ingelheim as a field worker. He died on 22.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Dhirendra Thakur



Dhirendra Thakur based at Azamgarh was working as SPE in AstraZeneca. He died on 09.04.2021. He was Convener of UPMSRA Council of

AstraZeneca. FMRAI deeply condoles his death and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Tushar Srivastava



Tushar Srivastava based at Varanasi was working as SPE in Macleods (TB Care Division). He died on 20.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Mohit Shukla



Mohit Shukla was working as SPE in Tidal Pharma in Kanpur headquarter. He died on 18.04.2021. MRAI deeply condoles his demise and expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Mithilesh Rao



Mithilesh Rao was working as SPE in Metron Formulation at Deoria headquarter. He died on 24.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Vijay Gupta



Vijay Gupta was working as SPE in Gentronix Lifecare at Deoria headquarter. He died on 24.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Maninder Singh



Maninder Singh based at Sultanpur was employed in Innovative Pharma. He died on 26.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Dharmendra Nishad



Dharmendra Nishad (H.Q. Gorakhpur) was working as SPE in Yash Pharma Laboratories. He died on 26.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Akhilesh Tiwari



Akhilesh Tiwari (H.Q. Sultanpur) was working as SPE in Superstar Pharma. He died on 27.04.2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Yunesh Bisen



Yunesh Bisen was employed in Abbott Respicare Division at Balaghat headquarter in Madhya Pradesh and a was member of MPMSRU . He was terminated by the company during the lockdown in 2020 by arbitrarily 'evaluating' him on parameters beyond his control. The company also closed down the division victimizing him and other field workers. None, including him, was absorbed in any other division or at any other place. Yunesh got infected by Covid-19 and succumbed to death on 17th April, 2021. He is survived by his mother, wife and two young children aged three and one. FMRAI conveys deep condolences to the bereaved family.

A milestone

Recognition of Sales Promotion Employees by Kerala Government

The Left Front ruled State Government of Kerala through a gazette notification dated 19th April, 2021 has formed an Industrial Relation Committee (Vyavasaaya Bandha Samiti) for the Sales Promotion Employees. This Industrial Committee would be comprised of 13 members, Labour Commissioner would be as Chairman, 6 Representatives from Central Trade Unions like CITU, AITUC, INTUC, BMS etc and 6 Representatives from the Employers (Kerala based Companies like M/S Anchus Pharmaceuticals & Others). CITU will be represented by the leaders of KMSRA i.e. Com. Mohan. C. Nair, General Secretary, Com. K. M. Surendran, President and Com. P. Krishnanand, Joint General Secretary. Earlier 10 similar committees were already functioning for the workers in Water Transport, Tapping, Cashew, Coir and others, with

the objective of maintaining harmonious Industrial relation in the state. Now this just extension of the trade union rights to the workers of the particular craft of Sales Promotion has been done by the Left Front ruled Government of Kerala. This empowerment of the workers was achieved through consistent movement and persuasions of the Kerala Medical And Sales Representatives' Association's i.e KMSRA (affiliated to CITU & FMRAI) .This Industrial Committee in the days to come will frame guideline to discuss and decide on the policy of the governance of the workers, the modalities of settling industry wise disputes and others. The Committee will also finalize the Minimum Wages, Payment of Bonus, Working Hours etc. The vista that has been set by KMSRA can be followed in other states through the respective State bodies.

Raghavendra Rao

Raghavendra Rao employed in Abbott, Vice President and council subcommittee convener of Vijayawada Sub APMSRU, 38 years old, passed away after a brief illness of 10 days. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Nayanaditya Kundu



Nayanaditya Kundu , A Field Worker of Glenmark, Telma division, passed away on 28th April, 2021, after meeting with a serious road accident. He was a member in North 24 Parganas District committee of WBMSRU. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

D. Maruti Prasad

D. Maruti Prasad, employed in Zydus Healthcare Secretary of Sriakulam unit of APMSRU and state convener of Zydus Healthcare council passed away after an illness following Covid 19 infection. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Girish Sharma



Girish Sharma(38) employed in Torrent Pharma based at Kota and a member of RMSRU, passed away in the hospital after suffering from Covid 19 infection . FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family.

Dhirendra Thakur

Dhirendra Thakur, a field woker

of AstraZeneca in Azamgarh headquarter and a member of UPMSRA breathed his last on 09.04.2021. He was functioning as the Convener of UPMSRA Council of AstraZeneca. FMRAI deeply condoles his death and expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Chandan Pradhan

Chandan Pradhan, age 56 years was Working Committee Member of Raipur unit of MPMSRU and he was employed as field worker in Sun Pharmaceuticals, Solares Division. He passed away on 7th April, 2021, due to Covid-19 infection. He along with his wife was admitted in Hospital for the treatment of Covid-19. His wife expired on 3rd April, 2021 due to this deadly virus. Only family member left behind is 23 years old son. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved son and other family members.

Anjan Guha

Anjan Guha ex member of Maldah district committee of WBMSRU and one of the stalwarts of Trade union movement passed away on the 25 April, 2021 owing to a heart attack. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family members.

Arnab Deb Sharma

Arnab deb Sharma a young member of Belegghata LC of Kolkata district committee in WBSRU passed away on the 26th April, 2021 following Covid 19 related severe acute respiratory infections. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family members.

Tapan Dinda

Tapan dinda of Livin Formulation working in Contai headquarter, a member in Purba Medinipur District committee in WBMSRU passed away due to Covid 19 on 27th April, 2021. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family members.

Himalaya Drugs

APMSRU

Obituary

Valiant Strike on 28th April, 2021

Signature campaign on World Health day

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The management of M/S The Himalaya Drug Company adopted various forms of repressive and arbitrary punitive actions by way of mass scale terminations of the Sales Promotion Employees working in Zeus (SBU) Division, along with termination of the sales promotion employees recruited for the service of the company under contractor named M/S Teamlease Services Limited, in complete contravention to the laws of the land. The existing sales promotion employees are constantly being intimidated with threats of closure of some more division and terminations. On raising justified protest action against these atrocities, the management has further aggravated the issues and unleashed newer and unjust punitive measures against the leading functionaries of the union by denying their legitimate trade union rights. The management issued Charge Sheets and deducted salaries of All India Convener Sri S. K. Nag of Himalaya Council and other leading functionaries of the union for legitimate trade union activities. Unjust punitive actions against the leading functionaries of the union for their work as the functionaries of the union and their legitimate exercise of trade union right and duties incidental to their trade union function is grossly unfair, arbitrary and unlawful. In protest of the

unlawful and arbitrary action of the management, the massive participation by the sales promotion employees of Himalaya Drugs in two days Strike on 15th and 16th March, 2021 was phenomenal. In a complete departure from past practice, the management has introduced a new service policy in the name of "Annual Performance Review 2020-21" and compelling the sales promotion employees to comply with the entire process, violating Section 9 A of The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. This directive of the management again blatantly contradicts Section 33 of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 as discussions on Charter-of-Demands, which has been marked to Labour Commissioner, Government of Karnataka is pending. Again to uphold their rights, the sales promotion employees of Himalaya Drugs Company resorted to one day strike on 28th April, 2021 in a befitting manner amid fearful pandemic situation across the country. The Strike carries a great significance as more numbers of fieldworkers of Himalaya Drugs this time participated in the strike including those suffering from Covid and those confined due to lockdown. The fieldworkers have endorsed their full support to this struggle and are further consolidating for an intensified movement in future.

World health day is observed throughout the world on the 7th of April each year aiming to create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority are identified by World Health Organization. From its inception at the First Health Assembly in 1948 and since taking effect in 1950, World health day has helped to focus on relevant topics pertaining to public health and brought them into the realm of popular imagination.

Over the past 50 years this has brought to light important health issues such as mental health, maternal and child care, and climate change. The day is marked by activities which extend beyond the day itself and serves as an opportunity to focus worldwide attention on these important aspects of global health. While the developed countries have experienced rapid economic growth in the recent years, the opportunities in terms of accessibility to health care have not been equal for all. The Covid 19 pandemic has destabilized recent health gains and has pushed more people in to poverty and food insecurity, and increased health inequalities. Therefore this year's World Health day has been marked by World Health Organization's call for action to eliminate health inequities, as part of a year-long global campaign to bring people together to build a fairer and healthier world. World Health Organization calls for action on World health day and highlights that 'the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition'.

Along with Kerala, he started his organisational activity at all India level, specially in South zone. In 1976, he was elected as President of FMRAI in its Nagpur conference along with J S Majumder as General Secretary and continued in the office till 1985. There was significant organisational development during this period uplifting FMRAI to a fighting organisation defeating collaborationist force.

He also took initiative in organising Roche Medical Representatives during early seventies in FMRAI councils and mobilised them in taking membership of Roche Employees' union. Under his leadership, Roche field workers achieved trade union and collective bargaining right through Roche Employees' Union in March, 1977. N I Joseph was a knowledgeable person and well versed in social, political, economic and scientific developments of the world. He was a good orator and writer also. His articles were published in different journal.

Long Live Comrade N I Joseph.

N.K. Tarafdar

N.K. Tarafdar, former treasurer of FMRAI left us suffering from Covid 19 related severe acute respiratory infections on the 25th of April, 2021. He was also a former office bearer of BSSRU. He was a very soft spoken individual with loads of patience and was very popular amongst all age group of sales promotion employees. FMRAI conveys heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family members.

Sanjeev Mishra



Sanjeev Mishra based at Bareilly and member of UPMSRA passed away due to massive heart attack on 20th April 2021 at the age of 54 years. He was also suffering from Covid 19 infection. He joined as a Medical Representatives in German Remedies in newly named as Zydus Healthcare Limited at Moradabad HQ in the year 1989 and later on transferred to Bareilly, his hometown. He was CCRC (Negotiating/ Grievance committee) member since 2011 and Zone II convener of German Remedies all India council. He played an important role in convincing the field workers of German Remedies to remain

consolidated under the banner of FMRAI and fought against the management's attempts to promote a puppet organization which was floated by the Management only. He is survived by his wife and two sons. FMRAI mourns on his untimely death and expresses deep condolences to his bereaved family members. German Remedies field workers wore black badge in his memory across the country on 21st April, 2021.

Subir Mitra



Subir Mitra, state convener of Indoco council in WBMSRU and a lifelong fighter against the oppression of the management left us after having a cardiac arrest on the morning of 7th April, 2021. His commitment towards the cause of working class and field workers in particular can never be forgotten by us. FMRAI deeply condoles and conveys condolences to the bereaved family

Pankaj Srivastava



Pankaj Srivastava, a member of UPMSRA, working as a Medical Representative at Agra HQ passed away on 24th April 2021. He was only 44 years of age and suffering from Covid 19 related ailment. He Joined German Remedies Company, as it was newly-named as Zydus Healthcare Limited at that time, on 10th July 2000. He was former unit secretary of Agra, UPMSRA He is survived by his wife and two sons. Members of German Remedies council across the country expressed their heartfelt condolences at his demise. FMRAI mourns on his untimely death and expresses deep condolences to his bereaved family members.

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OSRU

Workshop on labour code at Cuttack



OSRU organized workshop on labour codes at Cuttack on 18th April, 2021 at the state centre of OSRU. The workshop was inaugurated by Janardan Pati, President, CITU, Odisha state. The workshop was conducted by K. Sunilkumar, Secretary, FMRAI. Sunilkumar explained the anti-working class content and intent of the labour codes. He explained the background and exposed the evil design of the central government in making these four labour codes repealing 44 labour laws making serious changes in the existing labour laws and gravely

undermining the legal right of the workers and helping the employers in exploiting the workers by worsening the working and service conditions and increasing their workload. He discussed the four labour codes, namely, Wage Code; Social Security Code; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code; and the Industrial Relations Code, quite elaborately and lucidly putting emphasis on the relevant sections of the labour codes including those sections that is applicable to the sales promotion employees. He explained how the existing rights and gains of the field workers are being taken away by making lot of changes in the SPE act.

The workshop was presided over by Subhankar Das, President, OSRU. Vote of thanks was given by Satyabrata Mahapatra, General Secretary, OSRU. State Committee members and District Committee members across the state attend this workshop which was organized under strict Covid 19 protocol.

The members of APMSRU undertook a signature campaign to bring forth health related demands for the people of India in consonance with World Health Organization's theme for this year. The demands raised in relation to the specific conditions existing in India were: allotment of 4% of GDP in health care, revival of PSUs especially the pharma PSUs for effective and affordable delivery of health care and for access to essential medicines, and complete withdrawal of GST from medicines in India.

On the 7th of April large flex banners highlighting the demands were put up by members of APMSRU in 14 cities in the state of Andhra Pradesh mostly in main public places. Common people were urged to sign on the banners expressing their solidarity with the demands. About twelve thousand signatures were collected on the day. About twenty thousand pamphlets were also published and distributed amongst the members and general public in these cities and towns.

Prior to this, General body meetings were held across the state in all units of APMSRU, where the working committee members of FMRAI and the state were present and discussed about the programme and also on the imminent two days pan India strike by the field workers on the 7th and 8th of July, 2021. About 800 members of APMSRU participated in the above programme making it a grand success throughout the state.