

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

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Strike on 8th January, 2020

FMRAI organizes nationwide campaign



MSMRA Nashik unit submitted strike notice to district collector and organised demonstration

On 30th September 2019 the united platform of Trade Unions and industrial federations of the country declared **All India strike on 8th January, 2020**, from the Joint Convention at Parliament Street to protest against the anti-worker, anti-people, and pro-

liveliness of all sections of people in general. The country is facing a continuing economic slowdown, continuing job-losses, highest ever unemployment, widening and deepening impoverishment, faster decline in average level of earnings, reckless privatisation of

abnormal rise of economic inequality in the society. The BJP led Central Government is bent on the process of amalgamation of existing labour laws into 4 Codes. The *Code on Wages* has already been passed in the last session of Parliament. The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 achieved through relentless struggle is proposed to be repealed soon through introduction of *Code on Occupational Health, Safety and Working Conditions (OSH)*. The Government has already introduced in the winter session of the Parliament the Code on Industrial Relations, with the sole objective to snatch away the trade union rights of the working class and impose conditions of extreme exploitation on them replacing gradually the workers by apprentices through Fixed Term Employment to grossly alter the employment-relations towards

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PCMSRU Ferozpur unit in civil hospital for mobilization during strike corporate policies aggressively pursued by the Central Government, which have severely affected the lives and national productive assets, destruction of indigenous manufacturing capabilities leading to deindustrialization and

Outrage and anger Nationwide protest in Alkem



Demonstration in front of Alkem office at Lucknow by UPMSRA

Creating yet another gruesome and inhuman instance of injustice a Medical Representative have been made responsible for sales outcome and had to undergo incomparable pain and suffering. A young and energetic field worker committed suicide under circumstances of overwhelming sales pressure. Shivam Mishra, a sales promotion employee in Bergen division of Alkem was driven to unnatural and untimely death. He was a member of Shahjahanpur unit of UPMSRA. Shivam was continuously hounded by the local management of the company for fetching sales to fulfill the sales objectives of the company. This extraordinary business aspiration of the management finally took toll of his life on 14th November.

The Working Committee Meeting of Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI) held at Goa on 16th & 17th November, 2019 took note of this incidence and identified the brutal hands of the management, expressed concern and unanimously condemned those involved in it. To protest this despicable act of the management, Alkem field workers throughout the country wore black badges on 19th November, 2019 and UPMSRA organized massive demonstration before the establishment of the company in Lucknow, on the that day. The other state units of FMRAI also organized demonstrations in front of the company's establishment.

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OSH code in standing committee

FMRAI meets members of parliament



FMRAI delegation meets Pasunoori Dayakar, Standing Committee member and TRS MP, on OSH code

Currently the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Labour is reviewing the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH code) bill, 2019. This OSH code attempts to do away with 13 labour laws including the SPE act causing serious harm to different section of workers, therefore FMRAI opposes promulgation of

this code. FMRAI leaders met the Members of Parliaments (MPs), who are members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (Labour) that reviews the bill.

Elamaram Karim, MP and member of the parliamentary standing committee on labour was handed over our the

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Zonal conventions held in Johnson & Johnson



Zonal conventions of All India council of J&J field workers were held in three places of the

country in the month of November. Zonal convention in North Zone was held on 24th

November, 2019, at B.T.R. Bhavan, New Delhi. Members from DSMRO and HSMSRU, RMSRU and UPMSRA participated. Pranab Roy, Secretary FMRAI, addressing the meeting, elaborated on Industry-wise situation, Council organization and Council networking and the council and council related movement. He also explained the company wise developments and FMRAI's approach towards the

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8th January, 2020

The crowd will be victorious

'One job should be enough', reads a placard. The placards were held by the striking workers employed in Marriott International (world's largest hotel company, operating in more than 130 countries) at San Francisco, USA. Instead of a stark demand the placard argues that an employment should generate as much wage as may enable a worker sustain his or her family and their livelihood. Some jobs in that rich nation are part-time jobs, while some other jobs are full-time jobs but are incompletely paid or underpaid. Prices of commodities are robust and cost of living is high but wages are low. Large numbers of employments are temporary and the working people look for, and get engaged in different jobs, to make ends meet. In December, 2018, after nine weeks of strike the Marriot management accepted that the wages were low and therefore, wages were revised through agreement with the union.

In India too, workers, not only in unorganized sector but also in organized sector have started feeling, in the days of sharp increase in prices of all essential commodities, that the job that has been trapped through downright competition is not bringing enough for life and dignified existence. Energy prices (petrol, diesel, electricity) increased but such prices refused to drop. When medicine prices increased, government did not have any reason to be unhappy, as increase in every rupee brought more GST and more revenue to government's coffer that has been depleted through liberal tax concession to the big industrial giants. Prices of food items, including the staple food, are soaring. Onion, a major staple food in India, was sold at Rs 20 per kg till the first week of August, and in end-November it crosses 100 Rupees mark. 400% increase in four months. Government attempts to explain such enormous increase with unsuitable arguments like 'heavy rain', 'loss of harvest' etc. But, the fact remains that such price increase is not at the rate of 'hands of god' but are man-made. The government failed in procurement of onion and this factor alone created heyday for the hoarders and encouraged speculative trade in onion. The farmers sold onion at Rs. 8 a kg and now the buyer buys it at Rs. 100. The difference amount goes to the speculators, the hoarders and to a lesser degree, to the traders.

Government, through policy decision, has destroyed the universal Public Distribution System (PDS) and has paralyzed the government agencies like Food Corporation of India. Food subsidy has declined over the years. India now occupies top position of shame in the list of nations in child malnourishment and food insecurity. This has not prevented the present government to give subsidy to the big business houses once in the current years budgets (5% reduction in income taxes to the corporate) and again in the excuse of slowdown reducing corporate taxes by another 8%. These overtly-indulged corporates are found, more often than not, to be fugitive after receiving huge concessions from the government and looting huge amount of money from banks.

One job should bring as enough of wage as may ensure survival. The workers, skilled, semiskilled or unskilled, either organized or unorganized, should earn one wage a month that prohibits hunger. It is not only a matter of survival of the workers; it is a matter of survival of an economic system that needs buyers. It is a matter of survival of the manufacturers too. The workers, the peasants, the common people are the consumers of

those commodities which are brought to the market for sale. Jobs to the unemployed and enough of wages in the hand of the workers, bring cheers in the market opposite of which brings gloom. But the present labour minister consulted with the neoliberal pundits, discussed the matter in the cabinet and declared a bizarre figure of Rs.4628 per month as national minimum wage. Such wage proposes to strip a worker to his last rags and it will not be difficult to imagine that such low wage will be as good as death sentence for the workers. Thus, it is no wonder that with such huge army of impoverished workers the Indian economy cannot recover from its unprecedented slowdown.

Workers reject this bizarre figure as minimum wage. The impending strike of the united working class at the call of majority of the trade unions and independent federations in India on 8th January, 2020, demands of Minimum wage of not less than Rs. 21000 per month with price rise compensation. All sections of working class, including the field workers across industries, will join this country-wide strike of extreme emergency and that of extreme national importance.

This strike is especially notable as it is not only on the question of wage and employment but also on the question of huge unemployment and rising joblessness in the country. Hundreds and Thousands of young men and women stand in cue for hours together in scorching sun if some hundred vacancies are declared anywhere. Rail and road transports get unbelievably overcrowded with young men and women in cities and town across the country on the days of competitive exams. One Crore and Ninety lakhs youth applied when Indian railways invited application for 63,000 vacancies to recruit helpers, porters, cleaners, gatemen, track maintainers and assistant switchmen. Young graduates, and post-graduates too, applied. By 2021, the number of people in India between the ages of 15 and 34 is expected to reach 48 Crores (Independent, United Kingdom, *independent.co.uk*, 6th January, 2019). In the meantime, Crores of jobs mostly in small scale and informal sector have been lost and future opportunities shut down, in a single stroke of demonetization. Whereas the present government talks about 'make in India, it is doing just the opposite that actually destroys Indian small and medium business and industries, cottage industries and agriculture-based industries. Further liberalization, mindless FDI in all sectors, disinvestment of national institutions of reputation, massive privatization and withdrawal of governmental supports to weaker enterprises, is taking its toll on employment situation in the country. Therefore, the strikers of 8th January strike have decided that they will organize strike not only for living wage, not only for protection of their own jobs and rights, but also for the jobs and dignified employment for all generations to come.

The striking workers are convinced that in the present regime, government's engagement with big business, attempts to throw workers into a pit of perennial doom and gloom, all in the name of reform. The Industrial Relations Code (IR Code) 2019 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 28th November, 2019 by the same labour minister. Government desires to replace 44 labour laws with four labour codes. Code on Wages 2019 has already been introduced and passed by the Parliament. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH Code) 2019 was introduced in the parliament and has been referred to the

parliamentary standing committee on labour. The IR Code 2019 seeks to amalgamate Trade Union Act of 1926, Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 and Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act of 1946. The code allows establishments to hire workers contractually on fixed-term for any duration attempting replacement of permanent workforce in perennial jobs. An establishment with less than 100 workers can lay-off, retrench or close without prior government approval, the code gives license. This number of 100 can be increased to 300 or more through simple notification by central or state government ('appropriate government'). If 50% or more employees of an establishment avail casual leave on a particular day, then such leave will be treated as strike. A trade union will be recognized as sole 'negotiating union' if 75% or more of the workers on the rolls of an establishment, endorse that union. If any of the unions does not get the status of 'sole negotiating union', then a negotiating council will be constituted for negotiation. This bill seeks to defeat the purpose of trade union recognition and rights of the workers of being represented by the union. Right to trade Union will be seriously undermined. The bill, if enacted, will help management in interfering in the internal matter of the union and encourage rise of management-sponsored unions or puppet unions. All these code are meant to take away the existing rights of the workers and amounts to stepping a step back in time to the age of slavery.

It is no less surprising that the current breast-beating nationalist government at centre decides to sell national properties to the corporate. No matter if these Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are profitable or not, it will be sold-out without remorse. The government exchequer stands empty. Huge tax relief for the corporate, lower direct tax collection, decline in revenue after introduction of GST (especially via overlooked GST fraud) has created huge deficit in resource mobilization.

Therefore, for the immediate purpose of mobilization of quick resources CPSUs will be sold out. Fundamentally, it will serve the objective of senseless liberalization to ensure deadly corporate plunder. It appears that the Government has serious obligation to the big businesses and none towards the workers, the peasants and the citizens of the country.

The present government decides to privatize central PSUs by divesting up to 76 per cent of the Government Equity of the concerned CPSUs. BPCL, Shipping Corporation will be sold out to private companies. Further privatization onslaught will be on Indian Oil, NTPC, Bharat Electronics, BEML, Engineers India, GAIL and National Aluminium Co. This government is promoting 100 per cent FDI in defense, railways, coal, and many other vital, strategic sectors. BSNL, MTNL, Air India are weakened by active government initiative with a view to prepare them for sale at a future opportune moment. The strike opposes this wholesale privatization bid.

The field workers expect from government nothing more than what is obvious, what is obtainable or due for them as part of working population. While organizing this strike field workers demands strict implementation of law applicable to them, especially the SPE Act. But government is attempting to repeal the SPE Act and replace it with OSH code, where some text of the SPE Act, with presumably different definition and meaning is incorporated by tearing it away from its true historical context and from its fundamental objects and reasons. Field

workers movement opposes this move of the government and decries this as authoritative imposition of the government.

Field workers will join this strike with the demand of protection of SPE Act, of removal of predatory tax (GST) on medicines and medical devices and of enactment of code prohibiting unethical pharmaceutical marketing with stringent punishment. Field workers demands of employers of compliance of SPE act and other laws, of no victimization on sales ground and of making and end to unlawful surveillance and invasion of privacy through electronic gadgets.

Shortly after independence the makers of modern India realized that the new independent India has to be built on the back of the workers. This thought process was admitted by popular discourses in the community and the media. Rulers and the budding Indian industrialists did not have grit to deny this. This mentality was reflected in the labour legislation that came in to existence.

Today, in the air of liberalization of economy, this truth is overlooked. The rulers are busy in selling out the country wholesale. Manufacturing sector is ailing. Deindustrialization is going hand in hand with rapid financialization with overwhelming presence of speculation and bidding in the economy. This situation is shaking the very cornerstone of India's independence and the workers, the peasants, the agricultural labourers; the common people are made to suffer not just by their employers and landlords but also by their own government. The attitude of the present government and its administrators towards the agitated workers, towards the starving farmers, towards the unemployed youths or the beleaguered women are now starkly, and surprisingly, similar to that of the colonial emperors.

Even though this strike called by the trade unions, it is indeed a strike for and strike on behalf of, all sections of the oppressed people. In this strike on 8th January, 2020, the mass of workers shall assert themselves on behalf of all. In this strike the mass of workers shall assert themselves for saving this nation, a nation of the multitude, a nation of five thousand years of multicultural, multilingual reputation. Now, it is just incidental that the workers are taking the lead. But, this lead will create new history, surely.

Face to face with adversaries the field workers' movement stands in the frontline. The crowd of the oppressed classes will be victorious, we do believe!

Obituary



Shivam Mishra a field worker of Bergen division of Alkem and a member of Shahjahanpur unit of UPMSRA committed suicide on 14th November, 2019 following outrageous

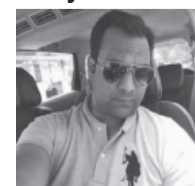
burden put upon him on the question of sales performance. FMRAI deeply condoles his death.

Rajendra Singh

a field worker of Prescription Pharma based at Bulanshahr and a member of UPMSRA passed away following a road accident on 15th June, 2019.

Bulanshahr unit of UPMSRA handed over Rs. 108551 on 31st October, 2019 to his family. FMRAI deeply condoles his untimely death.

Surya Kant Chauhan a field worker of Micro lab based at Saharanpur unit of UPMSRA breathed his last following a road accident on 20th November, 2019. FMRAI deeply condoles his death.



FMRAI Working Committee meeting at Goa

Working Committee Meeting of FMRAI was held on 16 and 17 November, 2019 followed by Secretariat meeting on 15 November, 2019 at Goa. Ramesh Sundar, President FMRAI presided over the meeting. The working committee meeting paid homage to the leaders and eminent personalities of national and international arena who passed away during the period from last working committee meeting to this one. FMRAI remembered with respect the members and functionaries of FMRAI and its state units who died in recent past. The meeting discussed about sluggish global economic growth, trade war resulting in huge job loss, struggle for democratic rights worldwide and resistance against rightward political shift and protest against climate change. The regime of the BJP Government has increased attack on civil rights and liberties, economic burden on common people of India, unemployment and privatization of PSUs. The working committee meeting focused on the fight for democratic rights by the working class, struggle against labour reforms and commemoration of the 3rd death anniversary of Com. D. P. Dubey. The meeting resolved to campaign and participate in the Nationwide Strike on 8 January, 2020 at the call of all central trade unions and industrial federations on 12 point demands and 6 point demands

of FMRAI and called upon all state and subunits of FMRAI to implement the programmes in a befitting manner to make the General Strike a grand success. Working Committee decided to accomplish the objective of membership of 2019. Policy level movement (Labour Related) will be carried on and simultaneously the task of meeting the MPs who are members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (Labour) will be done by the state units 'to protect SPE Act'. Policy level movement on Medicine Related issues will continue with the objective for reduction of medicine prices by capping of medicine prices under DPCO, based on the cost of production. The demand for zero GST on medicines also remains in core activities and FMRAI will also continue to pursue for introduction of UCPMP. On council and related movement it is decided to record protest against the challenges collectively and give relief to the sales promotion employees with more integration between the council network and inspiring members in protesting against any harassment on sales ground and organize collective protests by the sub unit council subcommittees. Various industrial actions were chalked out against some companies including Alembic, Svizera, Wallace, RPG and others. It was also decided that fieldworkers of Alkem shall wear Black Badge on

19th November, 2019 and state units shall demonstrate to protest against death of Shivam Mishra of Shajahanpur head quarter of UPMSRA who committed suicide on 14th November, 2019 due to intimidation, coercion and threat of job loss for non-achievement of expected business of the Alkem management. On 15 November, 2019 a delegation team from FMRAI met the management of Geno in the H.O. at Mapusa and handed over a memorandum with the demands. In regard to State Related Movement the significant developments for notification of eight hours work time frame in Tamil Nadu, Kerala were noted and decided to carry forward the movement to give relief to the sales promotion employees. Working committee meeting prepared the task to pursue for declaration and revision of Minimum Wage in different states, demand for notification of eight hours work time schedule and organize demonstration in front of identified companies - Alembic, DRL, Tablets India, Zuentus and Glenmark for late night Sales Closing. The job of ensuring distribution of FMRAI News to members and to prominent doctors was discussed at length. The task of enrolment of membership of the sales promotion employees of Other Industries should be given priority and mobilization to continue. Working committee also discussed and decided that

Eight Hours' Work

Time frame notified in Tamil Nadu

Long cherished vision of eight hours' work time frame has become a reality through gazette notification for the sales promotion employees working in the state of Tamil Nadu. TNMSRA had been continuously pursuing the issue and several programmes were carried out in this regard. Ultimately, on 30th October, 2019 the Government of Tamil Nadu has declared eight hours' work for all the sales promotion employees working in 11 industries as per provisions of Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976. In the notification the state government had fixed the working hours from 9 am to 5 pm with one hour from 9 am to 10 am marked

for clerical and preparatory work and from 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch break. It is also mentioned that the working hours for the sales promotion employees should not exceed 54 hours in a week including overtime. Sales promotion employees are entitled to overtime at the rate double the rate of regular wages. This declaration will give relief to the vast section of sales promotion employees working in the state of Tamil Nadu and definitely a landmark achievement in regard to state related movement of FMRAI and will be an additional tool for the other states for demanding eight hours work schedule for the sales promotion employees in days to come.

all state units should mobilize maximum number of women field workers to attend All India Women Convention scheduled to be held on 15 February, 2020 at Mysuru. The next General Council Meeting of FMRAI to be held at Mysuru from 14th to 16th February, 2020 will be named as Com. Md. Amin Nagar. It was reported in the meeting that GSMRA State Conference is going to be held on 22nd December, 2019 at Rajkot. Report of accounts was placed and the working committee meeting decided that all state units should extend financial help to continue the treatment of Bhaba Haloi, Working

Committee Member based at Guwahati who suffered a massive cerebral stroke and requires continuous treatment at his residence. The two days working committee meeting was successfully concluded with firm determination and conviction to fight against the anti-worker and anti-people policies of the Central Government, against the atrocities of the employers of various companies and to unite and struggle through organizational consolidation. The working committee greeted the members of Goa MRA for extending all support in organizing the meeting at Goa for the first time.

Zonal Convention

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industry. In North Zone convention report was placed by Rakesh Sharma, Zonal convener. The report detailed on the participations of members in different organizational programmes and suggested upon the future tasks of the council. Soumitra Mukherjee, All India Convener, in his address explained the perspective and content of the recently-signed wage settlement and also the Memorandum of understanding on day to day work. The subject of fund and various contributions including settlement contribution from the members was discussed. Members present also endorsed the settlement. In West Zone convention was held on 10th November, 2019 at Nagpur. Members from MSMRA and MPMSRU attended the convention. D. M. Deshpande, Working Committee Member of FMRAI, addressed the convention. He elaborated on the organizational position and council organization of FMRAI and explained impending tasks. Vivek Godse, Zonal Convener, placed the report of council, made observation on the council position, participation of the members in different organizational activities and suggested tasks. Wage settlement and MOU on day to day work were placed by both

Vivek Godse and Sandip Bhatia, Jt. Zonal Convener. The subject of fund and various contributions including settlement contribution from the members was discussed. Members present also endorsed the settlement. In south zonal convention was held on 10th November, 2019 in Chennai at TNMSRA office. Good number of members from TNMSRA, APMSRU, TMSRU and KMSRA participated. Ramesh Sundar, President, FMRAI, addressed the meeting. He explained the industry situation, council organization, FMRAI's various movement in different companies and in the industry. Satyanarayan, Jt. All India Convener, narrated the present position of Johnson & Johnson all India council and discussed on the council organization and tasks of the council members in the background of the council movement led by FMRAI. Council organization position in Johnson & Johnson in south zone, was placed by zonal convener Anand Kumar and participation of members in organizational programmes was discussed. Wage settlement and MOU on day to day work inputs explained by Anand Kumar, and P. Krishnanand, Jt zonal convener. The subject of fund and various contributions including settlement contribution from the members was discussed. Members present also endorsed the settlement.

8 January Strike Nationwide campaign

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slavery. The Code on Social Security will soon be placed in the Parliament. The proposal of repealing SPE Act tends to liquidate the existing rights of the sales promotion employees and expose them to further exploitation by their employers and jeopardizing their livelihoods. FMRAI, as a constituent of the United Trade Union movement, has successfully implemented series of programmes and also have undertaken independent industry wise programmes during this period and protested across the country against the proposal to repeal SPE Act. Prior to declaration of the strike, various programmes were carried out in a militant manner on pan India basis by all the state and subunits of FMRAI. The Central Labour Ministry was met on several occasions by the leadership of FMRAI for protection of SPE Act. Series of programmes have been designed by FMRAI to make this ensuing Strike a grand success. In addition to the 12-point demands of the Central Trade Unions, FMRAI has added 6 point demands, related to our industry, which are being pursued vigorously. FMRAI has demanded to the Central Government: 1. Protect Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976.

2. No GST on medicines and medical devices. 2. Introduce 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCPMP) and to the Employers: 1. Comply with the provisions of SPE Act and other statutes 2. No victimization on sales ground. 3. Stop surveillance and invasion of privacy through electronic gadgets. To make the strike a complete success, FMRAI members spread over the country have to take active role in pre-strike campaign programmes amongst the common people independently and jointly with other fraternal organizations to ensure total paralysis of the sales promotion activities across the country on the day of strike. In support of the 8th January, 2020 All India Strike; demonstrations in front of the offices of the District Magistrates were carried out by majority subunits on 11th November, 2019 and thereafter also during the entire month of November, 2019 across the country and Strike Notices also submitted to the government authorities. As reported, so far programmes were implemented in the subunits of Lucknow of UPMSRA, Sanghi, Amaravati, Satara, Sangamer, Kolhapur, Dhule, Sholapur, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Yavatmal, Sindhudurg, Wardha of MSMRA, to Collector of North and South

Goa by GOAMRA, strike notices served in Ludhiana, Moga, Pathankot, Sangrur and Ferzpur subunits of PCMSRU, in Angul of OSRU and in 18 districts of WBMSRU with organizing rallies and street corner meeting in Kolkata. WBMSRU state unit has also submitted memorandum to the Governor of West Bengal. Similar programmes were carried out in the length and breadth of the country in most of the subunits of FMRAI. The strike has aroused enthusiasm amongst the members to fight out the anti-people policies of the Central Government to make the Strike a remarkable one. Many other programmes along with Strike Notice submission to the Central Government Labour Ministry, to the company executives during joint field work and to the company's establishment are to be implemented in the month of December, 2019 and meetings, conventions, rallies will be conducted with leaflet, banners and posters as pre-strike activities.

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Members of FMRAI in different states across country decried the atrocities of the management in the field. The Working Committee has also unanimously resolved and demanded of the management of Alkem Laboratories that the culprits should be removed from the company, be befittingly punished and the bereaved family of Shivam Mishra be paid justified compensation.

FMRAI meets members of parliament

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objections of FMRAI on the OSH code during the inaugural session of the KSMRA GCM by President Ramesh Sundar, Vice President Suendran, Mohan C Nair state General Secretary. Com Karim assured to take up the issue appropriately in the standing committee. A delegation led by Ramesh Sundar, President, FMRAI met Thiru. Shanmugam, General Secretary, Labour Progressive Federation and Rajya Sabha M.P. at his Chennai office on 7th November, 2019. The delegation explained the perspective of SPE Act and the views of FMRAI in relation to the code and requested his intervention as a member of the committee. On 11th November, 2019, another delegation met Subbarayan, MP (Communist Party of India) and member of the committee. Delegation was led by R.Ramesh Sundar and V. Vasudevan, Working Committee Member (WCM), FMRAI's view on the code and particularly the demands of



FMRAI delegation meets Subbarayan, Standing Committee member and CPI MP, on OSH code

the field workers were explained. On the same day delegation led by TNMSRA, Prabhakar Devadas, General Secretary, TNMSRA and WCM, FMRAI met Nawas Gani MP from, Ramnad, Tamil Nadu who is also a member of the committee. The delegation sought his intervention in protection of SPE act. Similarly, on 7th November, 2017, a delegation led by K. Sunil Kumar, Secretary, FMRAI, A.Nageswara Rao, Joint General Secretary, TMSRU, Ch. Bhanu Kiran, Treasurer, TMSRU, K. Ilaiah, Secretary, TMSRU along with the

functionaries of Warangal subunit, met Pasunoori Dayakar, and Banda Prakash, (both are MPs and members of the committee) and sought his support in protection of SPE Act. With the same objective, leaders and members of KSM & SRA met Dr. Umesh Jadhav MP and member of the committee and submitted memorandum explaining the matter on 9th November, 2019 Since the code attempts to do away with legal rights of the workers, therefore, FMRAI opposes the OSH code and demands protection of SPE act.

General Council Meeting in KMSRA

General council meeting of KMSRA has held on 2nd and 3rd November, 2019 at Kanhangad (Kanchangad). Reception Committee Chairman Rameshan welcomed the council members. Elamaram Karim, General Secretary, CITU and MP inaugurated the General Council. K. M.

his address to the General council members. He explained the anti-worker contents in the ongoing change of labour laws and decried these changes as essentially anti-labour and pro-employer. This General council meeting was attended by 243 General Council Members (GCM)

recommendations of the commission and twenty one comrades representing the units participated in the discussion on the General Secretary's report and the special note. The General council also adopted resolution including those on support of 8th January



E. Karim addressing the general council

Surendran presided over the General council meeting. Mohan. C. Nair, General Secretary, KMSRA, presented the General Secretary's report in the plenary session. A special note on New Forms of Attack was also presented by Mohan. C. Nair. T. K. Rajan, Secretary, CITU, attended as an observer in the meeting for entire two days. Rajan also briefed his observations in

representing different units of KMSRA. Three commissions were formed (each commission divided into two groups) on the topics of Organisation, Council, and New forms of Attack. The commissions discussed these subjects in minute details with participation of large number of GCMs and made recommendations. Six comrades briefing the discussions and

strike, against change of labour laws, against communalism and on the demand of zero GST on medicines. Ramesh Sundar, President FMRAI, addressed the meeting and elaborated the various aspects of the demands and struggles in the field workers' movement. He also explained the company wise struggles, and struggles against the newer forms of attacks.

In the news item titled 'Silver jubilee conference of RMSRU held at Kota' read the following line as 'The election panel proposed by RMSRU President Sanjeev Khandelwal was adopted unanimously through which Rakesh Galav was elected as President, J S Naruka was elected as General Secretary and Parminder Singh was elected as State Treasurer of RMSRU' instead of 'The election panel proposed by RMSRU President Sanjeev Khandelwal... State Treasurer of WBMSRU'. In this conference Dr. K. K. Pareek, National President, Association of Physicians of India, made his deliberation and assured to extend support to the rightful struggles of the field workers especially in relation to

Corrigendum



working conditions and the company-wise struggles like in Sun Pharma. Dr S Sanyal, IMA President, Kota Chapter also greeted the delegates. This important element too was missing in the published news item

Drug Controller prohibits online sales of medicine

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) V.G. Somani through a letter dated 28th November, 2019, has directed all States and Union territories in India to stop sale of medicines through online platforms till the draft rules for regulating e-pharmacies come into existence. This letter referring Delhi High court Order dated 12 December 2018 gives direction to the respective government to prohibit such sales. The court gave the order while hearing a

Public Interest Litigation making petition for ban on sale of illegal or unlicensed online sale of medicines moved by Dr. Zaheer Ahmed, dermatologist, in December 2018. The Delhi high court order observed that said drugs were sold online in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. After nearly one year of this order the Drug Controller General of India's office Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) sends this directive so that all

the e-pharmacy companies who sell medicine online without appropriate license (and violates Drugs and Cosmetics Act) are barred from selling medicines online. In the meantime the e-pharmacy rules to be prepared by Government of India are at the draft stage. Here, it is pertinent to note, that it is a long standing demand of FMRAI that the unlawful sales of medicines through online platform should be banned.

The management of RPG life Sciences is forcing the field workers to accept online appraisals. The company has not paid the bonus for the last three years. The company has not called the Welfare committee meeting during last one year. Field workers of RPG life Sciences are extremely aggrieved at such high handed acts of the management FMRAI has called upon the field workers and the state units to organize agitational

Demonstration in front of RPG establishment in Kerala



New building at Murshidabad district in WBMSRU

The fighting spirit of the members and leadership of Murshidabad district has created a new milestone. The inauguration of New Building and rest house of Murshidabad district committee in Indraprastha area took place on 3rd November, 2019. The building was inaugurated by Sisir Saha, President, WBMSRU. Prior to the opening ceremony a mass meeting was organized in Indraprastha area. Santanu Chatterjee,

General Secretary, FMRAI, Sisir Saha, Md.Nijamuddin, General Secretary, CITU, Murshidabad district committee, Sumahan Chakraborty, Vice President-CITU, West Bengal, Subhendu Sarkar, District Secretary, WBMSRU Murshidabad addressed the mass meeting. The meeting presided by Samir Kr.Ghosh, President, Murshidabad district, WBMSRU



Agitation in RPG Life Sciences

programmes including submission of memorandum to management of the company during conferences. These agitational programmes were implemented by states units across the country. In many places the state council subcommittee members met the management and submitted the

memorandum. Strong Demonstration and simultaneous memorandum submission was organized in front of the company establishment by WBMSRU and KMSRA. Memorandum was submitted by delegation of State leadership in DSMRO PCMSRU, RMSRU and UPMSRA (Lucknow and Dehradun).