



1 MAY, 2020

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

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# Protest day on 21st April 2020 Not lecture, give ration, pay wages



Thousands **FMRAI** of functionaries and members stood with posters and banners in their doorsteps, Verandahs, Balconies and even rooftops in all the cities and towns across the country to raise their voice of protest against

FMRAI Greets all members for observing all India Protest Day on 21st April 2020 with enthusiasm and spontaneity by complying all the governmental guidelines and physical distancing norms which are meant to contain the corona virus.

of them came together following distancing norms and displayed posters and union's banner. Many protesters took notice of the enormous distress of the migrant To Page 4



the sheer indifference of the

government in the matter of wage,

21st April protest, MPMSRU

food and livelihood of the workers and the common people during Covid 19 lockdown. One poster reads: Give ration, not lecture; Give wage, not proverb. Another poster reads: Stop torture on Sales promotion employees in the name of work from home. Yet another poster reads: no hollow speeches, we need food, we need wages. Yet another: protect migration workers and Medical Representatives. Stop Bhasan. Give ration. Some other posters demands 0% GST on medicine. no victimization and 8 hours work besides requesting end to lecture and ensuring ration and salary. Some other posters demands of transferring Rs.7500 in cash to each family who does not pay income taxes. In some instances protesters were alone, in many instances they were accompanied by family

members. In some instances protesters carried union's flag, in



21st April protest, HPMRA

### <u>May 2020</u>

### Editorial

## Assault and resistance in the time of pandemic

Civilized nations, since last two centuries, talked about something called 'dignity of labour'. Even those national leaders who advocated eternal peace between workers and employers talked about 'dignity of labour' in the newly independent India. The ruling dispensation at the present time also talks on 'dignity of labour' and express their wordy sympathy in their swelling lectures. Under the cover of beautiful phrase they veil neatly their actual scheme of robbing the workers of their rights and dignity. But what is the status of 'dignity of labour' at the current time of pandemic and lockdown? Walk a mile with the migrant labourers, the endless travelers, will give a picture. One can talk to them and gulp their stories; their stories are full of police beating, police brutality and that of hunger and despair. If this work out does not bring enough knowledge about 'dignity of labour' in India, then one should examine their feet mixed with blood and dust. Better even if their footwears are examined. Some unique footwear they wear is made of disposable water bottles laced with cotton string. Social media in India has been rife with such majestic footwear. Thousands of workers in India are denied wages, thrown out of job, evicted from their dwelling places and even they were bleached en mass with corrosive chemicals in the suspicion of virus. The sordid story of Indian workers in the face of worst ever epidemic outbreak of virus on earth, exposes the deception of all the flowery phrase that the elites use in their deliberations. Indian workers are assailed from all four corners: disease. hunger, loss of right and loss of dignity in the days of Pandemic. The combined herd of government and big business organize assault and put the burden of disease and economic recession upon the shoulder of the workers.

chamber Guiarat of commerce, (GCCI) submitted demands to the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment that representing 16 industry associations in Gujarat, wrote letter to the CM of Gujarat expressing their intent of cutting the wage of workers to the tune of 30% to 50 %. The daily wage be paid at the rate of Rs. 202 per day, at par with MNREGA workers wage rate, they argued. Industry associations including Council of Indian Employers, FICCI, ASSOCHAM

demanded to Santosh Kumar Gangwar. that the government should suspend labour laws for the next two to three years, working hours should be increased to 12 hours a day, and the industries be given an appropriate package to ensure no job losses 'to help industry come out of the present crisis'. They also demanded that wages paid to workers during this period be treated as corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding. The Government of UP scrapped all major labour laws for 1000 days (Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption for certain labour laws ordinance 2020) which was withdrawn later by intervention of Allahabad high court. Madhya Pradesh Government also brought moratorium on labour laws to give free hand to employers for 'hire and fire'. State governments in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and Punjab extended work day from 8 to 12 hours. In summary, workers are sent back to the days when India was a colony, ruled by the cruel rulers overseas. Even government employees are not exempted from attack. Central government freezes dearness allowances and dearness relief (for pensioners). What brings shame to the independent India, if not this? Field workers too are in a tight spot. Threat of wage cut, wage denial, delayed wage and retrenchment of many

employers during virus pandemic and lockdown, has been actually executed and made real by some employers, victimizing field workers. Scores of employers bullied on field workers on question of the purported 'work from home'.

Anyone having sanity is convinced that field work is infeasible to be performed from home. Employers too know it quite well that field work from home is an inexecutable, absurd and hopeless exercise. Why then they insist upon 'work from home'?

For an answer get the clue from Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, who in an article in financial express talked about flexi-work, flexi-place and flexi-hour. The argument is plain and simple. Every place is workplace, every hour is working hour. 'The idea of working in a job with fixed timings in an office could become irrelevant' argues he( Amitabh Kant in an article dated 15.04.20 in NITI Aayog website, niti.gov.in). Well, the cat is out of the bag! Employers and the government are thinking in the same line. Who is following who is a question openended. In fact, the wanton destruction of labour rights by the central and some state governments and willful organized attack on life and livelihood of the workers by the employers are the two sides of the same coin. Employers in pharmaceutical and other industries desire exclusive control over the life and work of the field workers through use of internet, devices, apps and social media. Through 'work from home' exercise during lockdown they wanted to impose these apps, new systems and procedures, robbing field workers of their working hour, privacy, and family life with reduced operational cost.

Field workers across the nation are resisting every events of imposition of new and irrational work system in the name of 'work from home' even if they are being squarely threatened of dire consequences by some companies. FMRAI salutes entire this army of courageous field workers for foiling each evil machination.

Field workers, or for that matter, the entire working class will not accept imposition of burden of disease and of economic recession on their shoulder. In the midst of draconian changes in labour laws and denial of rights working people in India are more united than ever. The renewed attack on every section of workers and employees allows all section of workers to come together under one umbrella of struggle and resistance. Workers as a class, as much of a naïve and natural category in India is reemerging is a as a selfconscious class in the hearth of intense struggle.

Tearing apart the deceit of syrupy lecture and jugglery of packages, workers must have to halt the arrogant attacks. The working class movement in India is inescapably entering into a new phase. The mainstay of all future struggles will be of 'defiance and resistance', as the 16th conference of CITU had correctly predicted. Field workers' movement stands prepared for this new phase. Revitalize public sector, ensure healthcare through public facilities

**FMRAI NEWS** 

## FMRAI writes letter to the Prime Minister of India FEDERATION OF MEDICAL AND SALES REPRESENTATIVES' ASSOCIATIONS OF INDIA

FEDERATION OF MEDICAL AND SALES REPRESENTATIVES' ASSOCIATIONS OF INDIA

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Ref.No.GS/SPL/42		15th April, 2020

То

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi

## Sub: Appeal for revival of pharmaceutical PSU and strengthening the Public Healthcare System.

Sir. In the beginning, we wish to convey our appreciation for the measures initiated by the Government of India and the state governments in the battle against Covid19 and we extend full support in this regard. Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Associations of India (FMRAI) has been in the fore front to represent the policy related concerns pertaining to healthcare sector, including pharmaceutical industry with the objective of universal access to healthcare and reduction the burden of the common people. In this connection, we have made numerous representations to the concerned ministries including the appeal for reduction of GST on essential medicines and medical devices. However, at this juncture of health emergency we wish to place certain suggestions for your kind consideration. Humankind is facing one of the worst health disasters globally due to pandemic and majority of the countries are struggling hard to protect its citizens from the wrath of Covid19. It is quite evident that many countries are dependent solely on private healthcare services and are unable to cope up with the present requirements. In our country way back in 1946, Bhore committee recommended to Government to set up public healthcare system to ensure that every citizen has access to healthcare. Failure to take up the said recommendations and subsequent inputs from various other committees to strengthen public healthcare system has been a major cause of concern. It is a known fact that private healthcare sector has never played a role in protecting the community health and majority of our population depend upon only public healthcare system. It is highly evident at the time of such crisis that the government has to play a pivotal role to save the lives of the common people of India. We have noted the measures already put in place during the recent past for reinforcing the existing healthcare infrastructure by the central and state governments. But in the present scenario there is urgent need for announcement of a package of substantial amount to strengthen public healthcare system. This step is urgently necessary to succour the immediate needs of our population for free diagnostics, hospitalisation and treatment in a safe environment by providing adequate personal protective gear to all healthcare workers. It is also quite alarming to note from the letter issued by the ministry of chemical and fertilizer on 9th April 2020, that the production and supplies of pharmaceutical products and medical devices are hampered. Unless immediate measures are taken there will be a huge shortage of medicines including those required to treat the patients suffering with Covid19 patients. In the past, during such crisis and emergencies, public sector pharmaceutical companies rescued the nation, which has been substantiated in the 2019-20 annual report released by Department of Pharmaceuticals, Minister of chemicals and fertilizer, Government of India. The said report appreciated the role played by the Public sector Pharmaceutical companies in producing quality medicines at very reasonable cost and also with a focus to take care of the nation's need. A glaring example is the experience during 1994 plague episode, when our country faced severe shortage of Tetracycline it was public sector company IDPL which plunged into action to manufacture the same rapidly and helped in saving the lives of lakhs of people. While we have noted that the Government of India has recently announced a package of Rs. 13,760 crores to the Indian pharmaceutical industry to encourage manufacturing of bulk drugs, API's and medical devices. We seek your intervention to allot 25% of the said package to revive the Public sector Pharmaceutical companies mentioned in the annual report i.e., IDPL, HAL, BCPL, KAPL and RDPL and ensure their operations in full capacity. Once they are operational, those units can be developed to manufacture API's, bulk drugs, discussional drugs be developed to manufacture API's, bulk drugs, essential drugs including Hydoxycholoroquine, medical devices and formulations to meet the requirement of public healthcare system. Government can envisage a significant drop in imports of API's from China which is currently in the range of 60 to 70 %, with the revival of public sector pharmaceuticals companies and augmenting their infrastructure. Further, Government should also strengthen PSUs like HLL Biotech Limited, BIBCOL, Haffkine, BCG Vaccine Lab., CRI and Pasteur Institute of India, which produce quality vaccines and can cater to our requirements in such emergencies.

requirements in such emergencies. We once again request you to kindly intervene and take immediate steps to strengthen both Public healthcare system and Pharmaceutical Public sector companies, in the interest of protecting the lives of our 130 crore people and helping other needy humankind in various countries not only from this menace of Covid19, but also in all future health requirements.

Thanking you, Yours faithfully

for Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI)

(Signature)

Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary

Copy to :

1. Shri. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, 2. Shri D.V.Sadananda Gowda, Minister of Chemi

# Covid 19 Relief Work During Lockdown

In this unprecedented situation when the entire human race is in the midst of a severe crisis, FMRAI gave a clarion call to the State and Sub units to organise relief activities in order to stand by the suffering people of our country as a part of our social responsibility by maintaining physical distancing. The state subunits responded and immensely in various forms as had been done by the members of FMRAI in different natural calamities and disasters in the past. Some state units have financially contributed to the CM relief fund, others are in the process of collecting donation, majority of sub units have reached to the weaker section of the society with limited resources ĺike masks. sanitizers, soaps and food materials or helping people access to essential medicines through proper networking. As reported, in the southern part of our country in Kerala the members of KMSRA has contributed One Day Salary and the collection to Chief Minister Disaster Relief Fund (CMDRF) of 3 lakh rupees has already been deposited to CMDRF and another 3 lakh more to be deposited shortly. More than two hundred members have registered in Sannadham portal to extend voluntary work to the state government and were working with local administration in Community kitchen. Masks Sanitizers and hand wash were provided to various groups and helping aged and the needy in 14 subunits. Trivandrum subunit has opened helpline for reaching medicines to the lone and elderly with the help of distributors and local chemist who are unable to travel out. In Telengana, TMSRU have contributed ten thousand rupees to CITU to help the needy migrant workers. TMSRU gave call to their members to

contribute money to help the needy due to COVID 19 pandemic and lockdown. Members responded positively and around Rs.1,80,000 could be mobilised. Convenors of Council took very good initiative in following up with their members. Rs.50,000 was contributed to Telangana Chief Minister Relief Fund and 200 migrant workers at Hyderabad were provided ration. PATNAM, JVV and TMSRU started Medical Helpline to give Tele consultancy services to patients of Telangana and contributed ten thousand rupees and members are working as volunteers. The Jagtial subunit has handover medicines to Police Department for relief work. In Andhra Pradesh, more than 650 comrades contributed to the service activities to the have nots and migrant workers across the state. Totally 5 lakh rupees were collected plus 3 lakhs worth of goods were contributed to the suffering people in 16 sub units. APMSRU has already donated rupees fifty thousand to CM Relief Fund. Members of seven subunits have distributed masks, sanitizers and food packets along with CITU. In Tamil Nadu, TNMSRA has initiated the process of relief work and donated Rs 32,000 to the Pondicherry CM relief fund and more than 2 lacs to Tamilnadu CM relief fund. On 14th May, 2020 on the occasion of All India Demand Day to provide safety gears for front line workers in some units of TNMSRA sanitizer, masks, dry food were distributed to the health workers. safai karmacharis and police, some units donated PPEs to the government hospitals. Blood donation camp were organised in 2 towns. In the state unit of Karnataka, members of five subunits of KSM&SRA namely Kalaburagi, Hubli, Davangere,

Mysuru and Bagalkote were involved in distribution of food packets, grocery items and milk to nearly seven hundred migrant and daily wage earners. The state unit of KSM&SRA has given a call for donation and contributed rupees twenty thousand to CITU and it is decided to deliver grocery items worth rupees eight hundred to each affected family. Blood donation camp was also organized in Hubli subunit. In the western part in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, MPMSRU have donated Rs 25000 to CM Relief Fund of both states. Apart from this, 1100 ready to eat food packets with the help of CITU from base canteen were distributed jointly with MPMSRU Raipur unit and RDIEU (Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union). Betul Unit has distributed mask, hand sanitizer, hand gloves, fomite cap and energy drink to nearly 100 police personnel on duty and on daily basis served tea to all police men, district hospital staff and to the available patients. Medical camp were organised in Mubarakpur square in Bhopal on the highways to serve the passing migrant workers. Apart from Bhopal, similar camps were set up alongwith CITU and other fraternal organisations in Rewa and Sagar subunits. MSMRA state unit has contributed to Maharashtra CITU relief fund rupees ten thousand and has donated Rs 1 lac towards CM-Relief Fund. Nasik, Jalgaon, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Jalna, Akola and Ratnagiri subunits provided aroceries and basic requirements to the poor and needy. Blood donation camps were conducted in Parbhani and Nashik. The subunits of Nanded, Ratnagiri and Usman Abad distributed sanitizer and masks to Police force in their respective units. In the northern part of the country in Punjab and Chandigarh the state unit of PCMSRU, in the Jalandhar subunit has collected rupees twenty thousand and distributed 25 ration kits to the needy persons. PCMSRU state unit has decided to contribute to CM relief fund. HPMRA has decided to contribute rupees ten thousand to CITU relief fund. RMSRU state unit has collected from all 17 subunits using digital payment system and handed over one lakh rupees to CM Relief Fund. Apart from it many subunits are depositing money in CM relief fund at local level also through district administration. Subunits are also providing masks, sanitizers and food packets at many places. RMSRU also wrote to CMO offering volunteer service but didn't receive any response. At Jodhpur, 15 volunteers are rendering services in district collector's office. Total financial contribution in the state of Rajasthan is around 4.5 lacs. In the capital of our country at Delhi, DSMRO is working at local level, distributing essential grocery to the needy. Further, DSMRO State Committee has decided to give twenty five thousand rupees to CM Relief Fund through collection. In the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Meerut, Moradabad, Banda, Chitrakut, Lucknow. Lakhimpur, Basti, Ambedkar, Ghazipur, Ballia, Nagar, Varanasi, Bareilly and Azamgarh subunits UPMSRA has collected funds and distributed food packets/ rations/ drinking water etc. to needy people independently or in co-ordination with other organizations. And in the eastern region of India, OSRU contributed has twentv thousand rupees to Odisha Government state relief fund and has initiated the process of collection from all subunits. In the states of Bihar and

Jharkhand the state unit of BSSRU has donated twenty thousand rupees to state CM Relief Fund of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively. The subunits collected money at their respective subunits and purchased food items, sanitizer, water, mask and distributed to police, municipal workers and poor people in general. In the north eastern states, CRU has collected and donated Rs 75000/- to the CM relief fund of Government of Assam, Rs 25000/- to CM relief fund of Meghalaya and and Rs 10000/to the CM relief fund of Tripura and also provided relief with food grains, pulses and edible oil to 2800 needy families mostly stranded construction workers and others. In West Bengal, members of WBMSRU have distributed thermal guns, sanitizer, soap, gloves and mask to district administrative authorities and health care personnel. Food materials were also handed over to the poor people across the state. Blood donation camps were also organized by the subunits. Relief work has been carried out mostly in the district of Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Dakhin Dinajpur, East and West Burdwan, Nadia, Murshidabad, Hoogly, Howrah, North & South Parganas and Kolkata independently or jointly with CITU and DYFI. Estimated relief material approximately worth four lakh rupees have already distributed. been State committee has also decided to contribute to Chief Minister's relief fund. The members of FMRAI across the length and breadth of the country, in this unforeseen situation has stood beside the people of India with its limited resources and are continuing to serve the poor and distressed in this hour of crisis. On 27 May, 2020, the members of KMSRA distributed sanitizers to the common people

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## **Central Trade Unions' Letter to the Prime Minister**

We have been drawing your attention through our letters to you and also the Labour Minister to the plight of the working people - rural and urban, organized and unorganized sector, self employed, own account workers, gig economy and agricultural workers etc. who lost their livelihood due to sudden lockdown. We have been raising the issues time and again that in crisis situation the buffer stocks of FCI be opened to feed all working masses universally without requirement of any cards/ documents. But from our ground reports even those who are the card holders of categories such as Antyodaya – BPL-APL, they are not covered fully. In our understanding enough is yet not accomplished for ration to reach everybody. We again urge you to please open the huge Anna Bhandaar available with FCI for all these people. All the workers working in different other states or in the far off district/locations within the state far from their villages are now exhausted financially and mentally with no cash and nothing at all in their hands wherever they are stranded. In such a situation, to make them pay for their rail fare to travel back to their homes is the height of insensitivity to their plight. We also take objection to the latest order from the Ministry of Home Affairs dated 3rd May stating that the government will facilitate the movement only of those stranded workers who had gone to work or from work place to hometown just before lockdown but could not return to their neitre places/work places on account of restrictions placed on movement of persons and vehicles as part of lock down measures. We take it as discriminatory as no restrictions are placed by any fares from them in trains and the public transport in roadways. These workers are already in distress and they should not be pushed into further miseries. We hope you would immediately take cognizance in the matter and take appropriate urgent decision in favour of these migrant workers. There is urgent need for cash support also for the working people for their survival r

Thanking you Yours sincerely

Sir.

INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, UTU

#### May 2020

From page 1

Registration No. WBENG/2001/06430

FMRAI NEWS

# Protest day on 21st April 2020 Not lecture, give ration, pay wages



#### 21st April protest, CRU

some

some

MRA

the

workers who were passing days

and nights without food and

without shelter. Denial of the

wages by hundreds of employers

has become the mainstay of all

universal norms of 8 hours in the pretext of virus has roused anger.

Some government, like the

government of Uttar Pradesh under Yogi Adityanath, found the

virus epidemic time a convenient occasion to suspend all labour

laws. This anger of the workers

and the common people was

21st April protest, GoaMRA

further aggravated when the fortnightly addresses of the prime

employers but also

Not only

violated

protests.

government

proverbs and literary puns but did not address the major issues



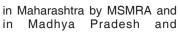
**21st April protest, GSMRA** faced by the common people of the country.

21st April protest, RMSRU

India Protest Day on 21st April 2020 with great enthusiasm and spontaneity by complying all the governmental guidelines and physical distancing norms. This extraordinary agitation programme was implemented by all state and subunits of FMRAI throughout the nation and the photographs were shared in the social media. In northern India it was organized by DSMRO in Delhi, by HPMRA in Himachal Pradesh, by HSMSRU in Haryana, by PCMSRU in Punjab and Chandigarh, by RMSRU in Rajasthan and by UPMSRA in



**21st April protest, DSMRO** Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand . In cities and town in western





21st April protest, PCMSRU

TMSRU in Telangana, by KMSRA in Kerala and by KSM&SRA in Karnataka. Similarly, the agitation programme was implemented in Bihar and Jharkhand by BSSRU,



21st April protest, HSMSRU



21st April protest, TMSRU



21st April protest, BSSRU



21st April protest, KSM&SRA Chhattisgarh by MPMSRU. In the southern states and union territories it was organized and implemented by APMSRU in Andhra Pradesh, by TNMSRA in Tamilnadu and Pudicherry, by



21st April protest, MSMRA

in seven-sister north-eastern states (Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura) by CRU, in Odisha by OSRU and in West Bengal by WBMSRU.



minister, which were duly studded with Sanskrit poetry,

**21st April protest, WBMSRU** FMRAI greets all members and functionaries for observing all



21st April protest, OSRU

India it was organized in Goa by Goa MRA, in Gujarat by GSMRA,



21st April protest, UPMSRA

Printed by Santanu Chattopadhyay, Published by Santanu Chattopadhyay on behalf of Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India and printed at Satyajug Employees Co-operative Industrial Society Ltd. 13 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Kolkata-700 072 and published at 60-A, Charu Avenue Kolkata-700 033 Editor : Santanu Chattopadhyay