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# FMRAI NEWS

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

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Misadventure of Albert David management

## Nationwide demonstration decry unlawful denial of wage

Massive demonstrations were organized in front of all the establishments of Albert David, including its registered office, depot office and C& F, across the country by the state and subunits of FMRAI. The field workers, organized by state and subunit council subcommittee, in all and cities towns throughout the country, met the stockists and appealed to them to stand with just cause of the Albert David field workers and submitted memorandum to the company through Resounding majority of stockists supported the agitation and many of them sent e mail on their own to the company, their business partner, requesting resolution of the issues of the field workers. State and subunit



Demonstration in front of Albert David office, Mumbai, MSMRA.

situation in Maharashtra. TMSRU organized Dharna demonstration in front of C & F of Albert David at Hyderabad on 9th. PCMSRU organized Dharna

organized during the demonstration which was addressed by the leadership and posters depicting demands of the Albert David field workers were



ADL demonstration & dharna at Ludhiana, PCMSRU

ADL demonstration & dharna at Patna, BSSRU

council subcommittee submitted memorandum to the managers in the field. MSMRA organized demonstration in front of and demonstration in front of prime distributor, the C & F of Albert David, at Ludhiana on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Demonstration and Dharna

pasted in the Dharna venue by council subcommittee members of BSSRU. Patna demonstration and Dharna was also reported in



ADL demonstration & dharna at Hyderabad, TMSRU

ADL demonstration & dharna at Jaipur, RMSRU

registered office of Albert David at Andheri in Mumbai on 5<sup>th</sup> July amid the grave pandemic were organized in front of depot office of Albert David at Patna by BSSRU. A gate meeting was the state's print media.

Demonstration was organized in

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Upward revision of daily allowance and travel fare

Petrol, diesel prices are increasing by leaps and bounds. In last seven years the prices of petrol-diesel have increased enormously especially on account of many-fold increase in excise duty. Petrol price was in the range of Rs. 72 to Rs 75 in July 2019. In just two years there has been 33% increase.

#### **FMRAI** demands

Not to forget that this 33% increase has effect also on prices of all other items of daily consumption. Thus, with increase in petrol-diesel price hike has doubly impacted the field workers, sharp increase in transportation

cost and overall price-rise. In this given background FMRAI is compelled to raise the demand of immediate upward revision up to a minimum of 30% in the daily allowances and travel fares. States and sub-units should campaign this demand amongst the members and raise this demand to the employers.

Indoco field workers demands of management

## Stop repression, pay withheld wage

More than 800 field workers of Indoco Remedies throughout the length and breadth of the country, across the divisions, sent protest SMS to their management demanding end to all forms of repressive measures, unjust punitive actions and immediate payment of withheld wages. After the successful strike and Dharna against illegal deduction of wages and unilaterally change of working condition, this programme was initiated at the call of FMRAI as the management of Indoco Remedies continues with their unfair labour practices and stoop down so low and take undue advantage of humanitarian crisis caused by waves after waves of Covid-19 pandemic in the entire country. Management had ignored the all India committee of the Indoco Remedies SPEs and abandoned the path of mutual discussion for resolution of burning issues of the field workers. Field workers of Indoco and FMRAI on Indoco and communicated to to management continuously in several occasions and raised the burning issues the difficulties faced by the field workers, especially in relation to the new unilaterally-imposed arbitrary system of call to call reporting under the surveillance through activation of GPRS system or location identifier even deviating from the submission in the industrial tribunal.

The act of the management is in complete violation of the laws of

the land. Complaint has been lodged in MRTU & PULP act in Mumbai by FMRAI against the unfair labour practice of the management. The SPEs across the country strongly resisted. the country strongly resisted inhuman action of the management and did not submit call to call report till March 2021. To uphold and abide by the court judgment, fighting Field workers submitted a letter explain the position of the field which done in accordance with the guidance of FMRAI. But the obstinate and anti-worker position of the management remains unchanged. They have forced the SPEs to resume field work during all forms of virusrelated government restrictions and did not release the withheld salaries. In addition to this the management is imposing various hardships upon the field workers in this awkward time nationwide epidemic disease outbreak. Suspension of work without any valid reason, implicating the SPEs for non submission of stock and sales statement by their respective stockists, and taking punitive actions if desired number of customer are not met by the field workers are only a few example of continued atrocities of this management. In spite all these atrocities field workers across the country stand united, stand attached to organization and continue to fight with exemplary courage and conviction.

All subunits of FMRAI will hold **General Meeting** on the subject of

### Campaign and agitation in the time of pandemic

with mass of members on **26**th **August**, **2021** 

### In memory of D P Dubey

Beloved leader and former General Secretary of FMRAI on his Death anniversary

Anglo French Drugs

### Demonstration and protest action by TMSRU and TNMSRA

TMSRU delegation with mass of members met AFD management on 16th July, 2021 during company's conference at Hyderabad. Management, deviating from rational democratic behavior, refused to accept memorandum. TMSRU organized demonstration on the spot in the conference in response to the

unabated attacks and atrocities perpetrated by the AFD management upon the field workers. Leadership of Vellore unit of TNMSRA travelled to Yalagiri hill station and met AFD management on 19th July, 2021, at hotel sterling resort at. The unit organized strong protest as the management refused to accept memorandum.

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Editorial

#### The field workers' movement must occupy the field, once again!

This monsoon has become bitter with the undiminished fire of rising prices. It is not because bitter gourd sells at Rs. 15 a Pao (quarter of a Kilograms), or pointed gourd (Parwal) or tomato sell at Rs. 20 a Pao in many part of the country. It is more because the perennially cheap 'common man's choice' like pumpkin which was being sold at Rs.20 a Kilo a month back now sells at Rs. 40 a Kilo . It is more because every item of daily consumption, especially food of the common people, is becoming dearer and dearer every day. These days, people buy vegetables in a Pao instead of a Kilo. Now, the vendors also, to minimize the impact of the price, quote the price in pao. He also tries to explain the price of his vegetables to the customer:

Continuous rain and increasing transportation cost! Whatever was transported at Rs. 2000 a truckload now cost Rs. 3000. The rise is strait 50%. You know, petrol and Diesel prices are leaping higher and higher, every other day!

Some people have no business with petrol and diesel prices. They stop buying some items, and sometimes switch over to cheaper alternatives, for example, they choose rice bran oil instead of mustard oil, sesame seed instead of poppy seed (a culinary delicacy), and tomato ketchup sachets instead of tomato. But still they fail to escape the impact of petrol and diesel prices. Hindustan Unilever and Nestle has reduced the tomato paste content in their tomato ketchup brands, to upkeep profitability. The impact is omnipresent; wherever you go, petrol-diesel network follows, without escape. Every item you consume you pay some petro-tax (petrol-diesel tax), over and above the other taxes (like GST).

The consumer pays nearly 55%, of petrol-diesel price, as tax to centre and state. Currently, the Central government levies a fixed excise duty of Rs.32.90 a litre on petrol and Rs. 31.80 a litre on diesel. Every state charges Value added tax (VAT) at different rates. In effect, roughly two-third (or more) of the total tax paid by the consumers go to the centre and one third (or less) of it go to the state, depending on the tax rate prevalent in that state. Lion's share of the tax goes to the centre. When the Modi government came to power in May 2014, excise duty (or Cess) was Rs. 9.20 per litre on petrol and Rs. 3.46 per litre on diesel. Excise duty has been increased many times in last seven years. The excise duty in petrol and Diesel are nearly three and half times (258% increase) and nearly nine times (819% increase) as compared to May, 2014. In November 1, 2014, just after the Modi government came to power, the petrol prices in four metros, namely, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, were Rs. 64.24, Rs. 71.68, Rs. 71.91 and Rs. 67.01, respectively. Now it is close to, or past, Rs.100 everywhere.

The former petroleum and natural gas minister confirmed in Lok Sabha in March, 2021 that government's revenue from petrol-diesel tax collection has increased by 459 % in seven years. The present minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, in a written reply in Lok Sabha this 26th July, stated, that the government has earned amazing amount of Rs 3,34,894 Crore (three lakh thirty four thousand eight hundred ninety four Crore) of petro tax in 12 months ending 31st March 2021. The minister claimed that the government is taxing the people and gathering money for welfare: free vaccines, minimum support price (MSP), food ration etc. Were not similar food rations and MSPs also being provided in 2013-14 when excise duties were lower? Does this government now give such MSP that decently covers the input cost at least? Is there any meaningful rise in MSP in last seven years? Does the farmers' income record a corresponding rise of 459 %? Why then they take to streets leaving the field? As regards to free vaccines, the government has spent less than Rs 10000 crore since the beginning of vaccination since January, 2021. Even the paltry amount of Rs. 30000 crore which were allocated for Covid 19 vaccination, have not been spent as yet. Even if the government spends the entire amount of Rs. 30000 Crore, the government shall have a surplus of more than three lakh crore of revenue collected through petro-tax. In fact, free vaccination is not free at all. Citizens have paid for it already in advance, through petro-tax. Still the government hesitates to give free vaccines to the people. On the contrary, government pushes the people to private facilities by maintaining constant scarcity of vaccines across the states. That the people are not going to private vaccine centres is a 'cause of serious worry' of the central government, said Rajesh Bhushan, the union heath secretary, during a health ministry briefing (The Hindu, 15th July, 2021). This is a candid admission of truth. Does this government spend any little share of this huge amount of money earned from petro-tax either in healthcare or education or employment generation or in infrastructure development? Why then people go to top court to get a bit of relief?

In India wealth, prosperity and profit do not attract much of tax but every bit of consumption attracts tax. Governments earn less from income tax (direct tax) and earn more from indirect taxes like Petro tax and GST. A kid of tender age buys a candy and pays tax. A differently-abled man buys a wheelchair and he pays tax. A widowed woman buys medicine for her sick daughter and she pays hefty tax. Even a beggar has to pay tax in India. There is no escape from indirect and hidden taxes which are compulsory. Unlike in income tax or corporate tax, such indirect taxes (petro-tax and GST) are paid on the spot and there is no tax evasion. There is GST and silent petro-tax in all items of consumption. This consumption tax is more of survival tax on the poor. If you want to survive, you have to pay tax. Either pay or perish.

Today, the government imposes avaricious tax on petrol, diesel, cooking gas and on all items of daily consumption without blinking an eye to the distress of the commoners.

Field workers are hard-hit during the reckless price rise. They are doubly affected, specifically through sharp increase in transportation cost and generally through overall price-rise. While increased movement cost increases expense, overall price-rise leads to income-erosion and loan-propensity. Thus, the petrol-diesel price-rise bruises a field worker like a double-edged sword. The same hundred rupees currency note no longer carries a field worker as long as it did yesterday. During the pandemic the customers are not easily accessible; therefore a field worker is further obliged to tread a different path or tread the same path once again and in many instances end up travelling more distance to complete the day's work.

note no longer carries a field worker as long as it did yesterday. During the pandemic the customers are not easily accessible; therefore a field worker is further obliged to tread a different path or tread the same path once again and in many instances end up travelling more distance to complete the day's work. Employers demand robust customer coverage. They are not amenable to reason even during an awkward time, made of wave after wave of epidemic virus. How this coverage will be attained? There is one strait rule: squeeze the sugarcane to extract more juice. The industrial masters apply the most primitive rule that was discovered by the slave-masters: inflict pain and get things done. They stick to their worn-out package of stupid terrorization and bullying. They cut wages and expenses, keep field workers on constant threat. In rapacious search for more market and quick profit, they refuse to admit ground realities and difficulties like customer-availability or petrol-diesel price hike, even if they are cunning enough to realize the crux of the thing. The employers are not naive and they know that an upward revision in daily allowance and travel fare is necessary. But, they refuse to admit this truth instinctively, , until mass of field workers go cross, until loud noise breaks out and until the united voice of field workers make them admit the reality that is commonly admissible with common sense.

Therefore, field workers need to act proactively. They have to wage serious struggle to minimize the double impact of pandemic and 'reform' (economic reform and labour reform). This is time to embark upon mass action on every matter that involves the common interest of the field workers. FMRAI will raise the demand for increase of travel fare and daily allowances with all employers where wage settlement is not in vogue. The state units of FMRAI will submit letters to the managerial personnel in the field, demanding upward revision in daily allowance and travel fare. The demand letter is the starting point. Field workers of individual companies have to come together and organize corresponding protest action and mass mobilization to realize this demand.

No doubt, this pandemic creates some impediments for field workers' movement. But, at the same time, it offers immense opportunities too. Every level of the organization will go to mass of members across companies, so that these opportunities are made clearly visible to them. The demand is one but mobilization must engage all. Seed of hope not only exist, it should germinate too and must bear fruit.

#### Albert David

### Nationwide demonstration decry unlawful denial of wage

from Page 1

front of C& F of Albert David at Ranchi by BSSRU. Demonstration was organized in front of depot office of Albert David at Lucknow by UPMSRA. RMSRU organized demonstration in front of C & F of Albert David at Jaipur on 14th July. MPMSRU organized demonstration in front of C & F of Albert David at Indore.

Three hundred and fifty field workers of Albert David have been denied their wage for three months -the well-earned wage - the legitimate wage that they have earned through hard work. They have been denied wage. unlawfully, because they are closely attached to their union. They have been denied wage because they protest the unjust actions of the management. The management transferred the field workers to distant places across the country only suppress the collective protests of the field workers of Albert David. Subsequently, these nine field workers have been terminated only to cow down the entire field force employed in the company. Now, with foul design the management, is making contact with individual field workers to get them break the rank and make them surrender all their rights and gains to the feet of the management. But, the field workers of Albert David stand together and stand united, shoulder to shoulder, even in the time worst epidemic and in spite of immense distress in spite of three months of salary blockade by the management. The management of Albert David has declared war against the field workers to exterminate them. lock stock and barrel. Field workers take this challenge with courage. The same field workers who brought fortune to the company. In 1990 it was a small company of 10 crores of turnover that entered wage settlement with FMRAI and asked for union's cooperation for growth. Field workers responded to call of FMRAI and in 2017 it became a company with Rs. 325 crores of turnovers. From 1st April, 2018, In spite of repeated persuasion the management made dillydally, made pretext, one after another and failed to arrive at a bilateral wage settlement with FMRAI. On the contrary, management agreed understanding which were lawfully arrived at between FMRAI's committee management since last three decades and tried to impose newer, not only newer but also arbitrary and retrograde, working Field workers conditions. protested this imposition and the management resorted to unjust wage cuts, threats, and terrorization. During this long course struggle a tripartite understanding on wage agreement was reached before the labour commissioner, in the labour department, Kolkata on 25th February, 2021. But the Albert David management refused to give cognizance to this due course of law, intensified attack on the field workers. FMRAI has also lodged complaint to the concerned Labour Department in Kolkata and urged the custodians of law in the labour department in West Bengal to prevent forthwith the Albert David management from organizing barbaric attack on the field workers by taking law in their own hand. In this arduous path of struggle field workers of Albert David will retain all their rights and gains. Members of FMRAI, organized in state and subunit council subcommittee and the other organizational committees, urgently engage with the Albert David field workers and remain awake to the conspiracies of the Albert David management. If the management of Albert David

the 10th wage settlement is due.

If the management of Albert David has desire to get baked in the fire that exists in the minds of the starving field workers, then it is a wild choice of them. Such misadventure will ruin the company for which the management of Albert David will remain responsible. FMRAI, representing field workers' movement, wants peaceful solution and expect management to come back to senses.

#### **Obituary**

#### Nirupam Saha

Nirupam Saha (44), a member of WBMSRU, in the North 24 Parganas district, employed in Torrent Pharma, passed away on 12.06.2021 due to Covid-19 related complications. He was in critical condition on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) support for more than one month at Medica super-specialty Hospital, Kolkata. He left behind his wife, son and parents. FMRAI deeply condoles his death and conveys condolence to his family members.

Asis Kumar Dutta Asis Kumar Dutta, a field workers

of Troika Pharmaceutical based at Coochbehar, West Bengal and a member of WBMSRU, passed away on 14th July, 2021 following Covid 19 infection. He was suffering from chronic kidney disease since 2008. Asis Kumar Dutta formerly functioned as committee member and made his contribution in organizing the field workers' movement in Coochbehar and Darjeeling district of WBMSRU. His lovable and humble profile will forever remembered by other field workers. He leaves behind his wife. FMRAI deeply mourns his sad and untimely demise and expresses heartfelt condolence.

FMRAI NEWS August 2021

## FMRAI records objection to rules framed under industrial relation code

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

Operational Office: 60-A, Charu Avenue, Kolkata-700 033, Phone: 033-24242862 E-mail: fmrai@hotmail.co.uk

**E-mail Only**Ref. No. **II/24 – 65**3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021

То

Mr. R. K. Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour And Employment, Government of India, New Delhi.

Ref: Union Ministry of Labour and Employment's Notification G.S.R. 317(E) dated 4th May, 2021.

Proposed Objections and Suggestions from "Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI)".

Dear Sir.

This is for your information and ready note that we the Union of pan India Sales Promotion Employees, cutting across of industries, have studied thoroughly your above-issued notification i.e. "Draft Rules of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020".

Without prejudice to our demand to scrap all the four labour codes, including Industrial Relations Code, 2020, passed by the government without even the parliamentary procedure we are placing our comments. Enclosed please find our proposed objections and suggestions in a table format. We reserve the right to make further comments as and when the same will be required.

Thanking you,

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

(Santanu Chatterjee)
General Secretary
Encl: As stated above.

### Table containing objections and suggestions

On the draft rules of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020

No	Address of the Organisation		Rule proposed to be substituted	
1	Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI) Address: 60-A, Charu Avenue, Kolkata –700033 Mail ID: fmrai @hotmail.co.uk	Rule 2 (b) "Negotiating Union" means a sole negotiating union referred to in sub-section (2) or subsection (3) of section 14;	Rule 2 (b) "Negotiating Union" means a sole negotiating union referred to in sub-section (2) or subsection (3) of section 14; Provision for "Negotiating Council" has to be included	Provision for "Negotiating Council" has to be included.
2	do	Rule 3. Matters in an industrial establishment having registered Trade Union for negotiation with employer for the workers employed in the industrial establishment under sub-section (1) of section 14 (1) The matters pertaining to workers which the negotiating union or negotiating council shall negotiate with the employer of the industrial establishment under sub-section (1) of section 14 are specified, as below, namely :- (i) classification of grades and categories of workers; (ii) order passed by an employer under the standing orders applicable in the industrial establishment; (iii) wages of the workers including their wage period, dearness allowance, bonus, increment, customary concession or privileges, compensatory and other allowances; (iv) hours of work of the workers their rest days, number of working days in a week, rest intervals, working of shifts; (v) leave with wages and holidays; (vi) promotion and transfer policy and disciplinary procedures; (vii) quarter allotment policy for workers; (viii) safety, health and working conditions related standards; (ix) such other matter pertaining to conditions of service, terms of employment which are not covered in the foregoing clauses; and (x) any other matter which is agreed between employer of the industrial establishment and negotiating union or council.	Rule 3 sub rule 1 (i) to (x) – to be deleted completely.	Scope for negotiations by union cannot be restricted to specific areas prescribed under the Rule 3 Sub Rule 1 (i) to (x). Trade unions should definitely have wider scope to negotiate on various other issues depending upon the prevailing situation, to provide relief to the workers.
3	do	Rule 4. Criteria for recognizing a single registered Trade Union of workers as sole negotiating Union of workers under sub-section (2) of section 14 Where there is only one registered Trade Union operating in an industrial establishment having its members not less than thirty percent of the total workers employed in the industrial establishment, then, the employer of such industrial establishment shall recognize such Trade Union as sole negotiating union of the workers	Rule 4- to delete completely.	When there is only one Trade union operating in an industrial establishment a criteria to prove with thirty percent membership of the total workers is a futile exercise. Employers may also resort to unfair labour practices.
4	do	Rule 5 (1) (a) The employer of the industrial establishment shall appoint a verification officer (hereinafter in this rule, referred to as verification officer) for the purpose of verification of membership of the Trade Unions in the industrial establishment who shall be an independent officer and shall not have any interest with any of the Trade Union, whose membership verification is to be carried out;	Rule 5(1)(a)The Registrar of Trade Unions shall appoint a labour authority as verification officer (hereinafter in this rule, referred to as verification officer) for the purpose of verification of membership of the Trade Unions.	Employer appointing Verification officer will only lead to a biased verification process to serve the interest of employers and to strengthen their puppet union.
5	do	Rule 5 (1) (c) The verification officer shall carry out the work of membership verification in the industrial establishment in time bound manner as determined by the employer;	Rule 5 (1) (c) The verification office shall carry out the work of membership verification in the industrial establishment in time bound manner as determined by the Registrar of Trade Unions;	Employer not to determine any activity of the verification officer.
6	do	Rule 5 (3) (b) The Application for recognition made by Trade Union shall be accompanied with the copy of the registration certificate, copy of list of members, details of the membership subscription and copy of latest annual return submitted to Registrar of Trade Unions and any other	Rule 5 (3) (b) The Application for recognition made by Trade Union shall be accompanied with the	On submitting the list of members along with membership details by a trade union to the employer, workers will be exposed to

			submitted to Registrar of Trade Unions and any other relevant document which the Trade Union wishes to submit in support of its claim;	
7	do	Rule 5 (4) (f) The employer may, with the mutual agreement with the Trade Unions of the industrial establishment, deploy an electronic process of conducting the election process over an information technology application, online platform or like other platform.	Rule 5 (4) (f) to delete completely.	There is enough scope for manipulation in the electronic process of conducting the election.
8	do	Rule 9 - In an industrial establishment, where there is a negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be, the employer of such industrial establishment shall provide the following facilities to the negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be, namely (i) notice board for the purpose of displaying the information relating to activities of negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be, (iii) venue and necessary facilities for holding discussions by the negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be, as per schedule and agenda to be settled between employer of the industrial establishment and the negotiating union or constituents of negotiating council, as the case may be; (iii) venue and necessary facilities for holding discussions amongst the members of the negotiating union or constituents of negotiating council, as the case may be; (iv) facility for entrance of the office bearers of the negotiating union or constituents of negotiating council, as the case may be, in the industrial establishment for the purposes of ascertaining the matters which are relating to working conditions of the workers; (v) employer to deduct subscription of the members of the Trade Unions on the basis of the written consent of the worker; (vi) treating on duty of the employer as pre agreed schedule between employer and such office bearers; and (vii) employer of an industrial establishment, having three hundred or more workers, shall provide suitable office accommodation with necessary facilities to the negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be, when the office bearers are holding meetings or discussing with the employer as per agreed schedule between employer and such office bearers; and (vii) employer of an industrial establishment, having three hundred or more workers, shall provide suitable office accommodation with necessary facilities to the negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be.	In an Industrial Establishment, where there is a negotiating union or negotiating council, as the case may be, the employer of such industrial establishment shall provide all the following facilities to the negotiating union or negotiating council to enable them to undertake defined roles, besides giving exemption from attending duty for any work connected with an industrial dispute, including but not restricted to attending court, attending the lawyers office, preparing documents, discussing with the workers, etc. besides holding talks with the management.	The present practice wherein employer provides all the facilities for effectively undertaking negotiating / collective bargaining roles be retained. The threshold of 300 workers be removed.

All the labour codes and the rules under these codes enacted by the central government are designed for quick enhancement of profit of the business houses by denying and contracting the hitherto-lawful rights and privileges of all sections of workers in the country. All these codes and rules are rabidly anti-labour and vividly pro-employer, including the Industrial relation code and its rules. In view of this, FMRAI rejects these codes and rules in totality, and not just this section or that section. However, general objection against, and rejection of, the Industrial relation code and its rules still does not prevent FMRAI to raise and record the specific objections which are particular and formal. Therefore, FMRAI writes to labour ministry and records objection.

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unfair labour practices. Her the said portion is deleted.

#### **OSRU**

## Field workers take to streets to protest petrol-diesel price rise



OSRU organize protest against petrol diesel price rise at Cuttack during Odisha Bandh.



OSRU organize protest against petrol diesel price rise at Bargarh during Odisha Bandh.

The field workers of Odisha, at the call of OSRU, took to street on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 and protested against the petrol-diesel-cooking gas price rise and against overall price rise of all essential commodities. The field workers along with members of other trade unions and mass organizations demanded rollback of prices of petroleum products by reducing excise duty and other taxes. The

left political parties called a six hour Odisha Bandh on the day which was supported by other regional parties and the central trade unions and mass organizations including CITU. The members of OSRU have

The members of OSRU have participated in this programme in districts along with the members of fraternal trade unions and CITU. In several cities and towns joint Dharna and demonstrations,

with placards and banners, were organized. The programmes reached remarkable height in Bargarh district as the normal life of the township got completely paralyzed during the programme. OSRU members played active role in different districts, especially in Bargarh, to make the programmes successful hand in hand with other mass organizations.

## APMSRU organizes extended state working committee meeting

State conference of APMSRU was planned to be held in March 2021 which the Tirupati unit of APMSRU came forward to host. But, in view of grave precipitation of 2nd wave of the corona virus epidemic it could not be materialized.

In this background, it was decided to hold it as extended State working committee meeting with State office bearers, state working committee meeting and presidents, secretaries, council subcommittee convener and treasurer of all twenty-one units of APMSRU, along with convener of all councils in the state. This meeting was held on 18th July, 2021.

The day-long meeting, over online platform, was presided

over by PS Sekhar Reddy. UV Krishnaiah, General Secretary, APMSRU, placed the report on organization and movement and Dumpala Prasad, Treasurer, APMSRU, placed the audited report of fund.

The discussions took place for 2 hour 28 minutes and twenty five members from unit leadership and six from council leadership participated in the discussion on the Report placed by the General Secretary and the Treasurer. Following due clarification and reply by the General Secretary and the Treasurer, the reports were passed unanimously.

Santanu Chatterjee, addressed the meeting and explained the current perspective of the field workers movement in the light of

working class movement in the country and enumerated the impending task on organization and movement. He gave a call for uniform implementation of programmes by building up uniform understanding on movement and organization across the state.

He appreciated the efforts APMSRU in the area of membership and gave call to make each independent movemental programmes of FMRAI a resounding success, besides making the united working class movements like 'save india day' programmes (scheduled on 9th August, 2021) a success.

Total attendance in the meeting was one hundred and thirty one.

Begusarai, BSSRU

## Convention on medicine related demands

Begusarai Unit of BSSRU arranged a convention on Health and Drug Policy on the 18th of July 2021 at the IMA hall. The convention was presided over by P.K. Verma, President of Begusarai unit. The welcome address was delivered by Rakesh Kumar, Secretary of the unit. The vision document on Health and drug policy was

The main speakers in the convention were Ganesh Shankar Singh, General Secretary, CITU Bihar state, Dr. Ram Rekha Singh, Joint Secretary, Bihar State Health Service Association, Dr Ranjan Chowdhary, District Secretary, IMA, Begusarai, and also Dr Sanjeev Kumar. All the speakers demanded of the government to



placed by R.S.Roy, State Vice President of BSSRU. Issues like drug policy of the country and the resultant difficulties faced by the common people were discussed in detail. The G.S.T charged on medicines and medical equipments that has directly resulted into escalation of the prices was also elaborately mentioned. The convention demanded of the government of reversal of the escalated prices, zero GST on medicines. The convention also demanded that availability and affordability of essential medicines should be ensured by the government. Government should also ensure that in national health crisis should not witness stock shortage of certain medicines and consequent black marketing as witnessed in current Covid-19 virus epidemic.

increase the budgetary allotment in health. They also asked for consolidating the basic health facilities for health care in the country.

Apart for the above, Ranjan Chowdhary and Manoj Singh from the BCDA demanded for a more effective and stringent drug policy in the country.

The convention was also addressed by Suresh Prasad Singh and Ramvinay Singh from CITU, Ramranjan Singh from AIPEU, Mohan Murari from Bihar Non Gazetted Employees Association and Lav Kumar from the Public Health Employees Association.

Ajay Kumar, Vice President BSSRU spoke in the convention. Members from Khagaria and Begusarai participated in a massive way to make the same successful.

## TMSRU organizes workshop on organization

A virtual Workshop on organization was organized by TMSRU on 18th July, 2021. P Murali presided over the proceedingsof workshop. A 'Note on organization' was placed by I Raju Bhat, General Secretary, TMSRU. State and unit office bearers, state working committee members in TMSRU and Zonal Convenors, Joint Zonal Convenors and Convenors within the state attended the workshop. State leadership and leadership from Adilabad, Hyderabad, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Kamareddy, Khammam, Kothagudem, Kukatpally, Mahabubnagar,

Mancherial, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Secunderabad, Siddipet and Warangal unit of TMSRU and state council Convener of Alkem, Abbott Health Care, Abbott India, Alembic, Albert David, Astra Zeneca, Biocon, Biochem, Franco Indian, Himalaya, J&J, Lupin, Meyer, Macleods, Pharm Products, Pfizer, Pharmed, USV, Uni labs, TTK, Win-Medicare, Zydus and available all India convener of Zydus Healthcare, Zonal conveners of Bharath Serum and Elder and Himalaya, and Joint Zonal conveners of USV and JBCPL attended the workshop.

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