

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

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Head office Dharna in Kolkata

Albert David field workers reclaim their rights



On 18th August 2021 massive demonstration took place in front of head office of Albert David Ltd. at Gillander House in Kolkata. More than hundred Albert David field workers and state and All India council leadership from different state and subunits of the country organized Dharna in front of the office of the company and in spite of great hardship transformed their anger to vigour and enthusiasm in the

path of arduous struggle. It was indeed a spectacle of an unprecedented spirit of struggle. In view of Covid 19 restrictions the Dharna and demonstration programmes could not be thoroughly planned well in advance and decided hastily after restrictions were partially slackened. The management made efforts to stop the programmes and to that objective they took recourse to lobbying with

the decision makers in the administration which, nevertheless, did not succeed. The management of Albert David is facing demonstration in the field and several demonstrations in front of the establishments of the company throughout the country have been organized. In the meantime, atrocities of the Albert David management by way of wage blockade of majority field workers for more than three consecutive months, illegal termination of nine field workers, punitive transfers, non-settlement of wage agreement, violation agreed understanding between the management and the union and imposition of unilateral working norms are continuing. The field workers irrefutably conveyed the message to the erring management that they will not succumb to the intimidation and bullying even when the management tries to impose starvation and hunger upon them. The field workers of Albert David pursued their rights with force which were reflected in the slogans raised by them in the Dharna venue. Members of WBMSRU belonging to state and district's council subcommittee and the local committees also attended the Dharna and demonstration.

Zydu Healthcare

Field workers are in the path of struggle



Zydu Demonstration at Head Office in Mumbai, MSMRA

The atrocities of Zydu company management is trying to introduce newer working management have been to introduce newer working



Zydu Demonstration in Lucknow, UPMSRA

continuing unabated across the length and breadth of the country. In all divisions of the norms for the SPEs in the name of Digital Initiative, which are

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Two days of strike in Himalaya Drugs



Himalaya Strike and demonstration, Indore, MPMSRU

In course of ongoing struggle Himalaya field workers across the country, across divisions and designation, went on two days of strike on the 27th and 28th of August, 2021 at the call of FMRAI.



Himalaya Strike and demonstration, Siliguri, WBMSRU

During the course of preparation of the strike, Himalaya field workers wore demand badges in the period between 20th and 26th August, 2021 and demanded reinstatement of all terminated field workers, bringing end to the acts of victimization of innocent field workers, making end to locking of reporting portal and arbitrary confinement of field workers in the headquarters and immediate release of all due payments. The state and subunit council subcommittees submitted hundreds of strike notices to executives of the company in the field and held protest demonstration in the field in front of these executives in all cities and town across the nation. On 27th August, 2021, subunit council subcommittee met hundreds of Himalaya Drugs stockists and distributors and memoranda were submitted to the company. On 28th August Dharna and demonstrations were organized in front of the premises of Himalaya Drugs in all state units of FMRAI in all corners of India. In Telangana, field workers reported strike and stockists were met in deputation in different cities and towns including Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Khammam and Kamareddy. In Hyderabad, memorandum was submitted to the management in regional office. In Odisha, demonstration was organized in front of the C & F of the company at Cuttack and memorandum was submitted. Similar demonstration was organized in front of the C & F of the company at Raipur,

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Indoco Remedies

Fieldworkers combat fury of the Management



Indoco demonstration at its Head office, Mumbai, MSMRA

Taking full advantage of the upsurge of Covid in the entire country; the management of Indoco Remedies is continuing with their unfair labour practices in an unabated manner. The fieldworkers of the company are subjected to various forms of atrocities, harassment and exploitation. The management of the company has introduced the app based reporting system and intruded into the privacy of individuals under threat of

withholding of wage and job loss. FMRAI went to industrial court regarding the concerns of the fieldworkers where the management has given a submission to pacify the concerns of the sales promotion employees. As per the direction given by the court, FMRAI have advised the field workers to follow the court orders. Surprisingly, the sales promotion employees are compelled by the management

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Field workers create new examples of struggle and sacrifice

A section of management in the pharmaceutical industry invents newer and newer punitive measures. They invented an utterly illegal punitive method named ‘stop work’. Now, they have invented a new punitive measure in relation to payment of wage. This unjust and unlawful punitive action does not have a fair name. Neither the civil society nor any legal expert has assigned a name for this wicked practice but in effect it is ‘wage blockade’. They deny the due wage of the employees for months together only to inflict cruel punishment for no fault of the employees. No law in India allows employers to deny the legitimate wage, let alone to sanction it as a form of punitive measure. Failure in payment of wages for work done is a punishable offence under Indian law. But, some companies are trying to extract their narrow benefits out of this evil practice. The wages of all Albert David field workers have been blocked since May, 2021. It is four months of blockade. But this blockade amounts to violent violation of basic employment contract (consisting of two main elements, completion of assigned work and payment of promised wage) that makes a serious breach of trust setting an evil example among the millions of other healthy employer-employee relation that exist in the country. By doing their duties field workers earn their wage. Employment differs from unemployment only through two main elements: gainful work and payment of wage. Non-payment of due wages, is as good as ‘involuntary labour’ or ‘forced labour’ and forbidden not only in law and but also strictly illegitimate in the eye of established social values and customary practices which, along with bonded labour system, has been abolished after independence, in the sovereign democratic republic of India. Non-payment of wage is barbaric cruelty, and nothing less than that.

In this ongoing nationwide epidemic outbreak this aggression of wage blockade is worst of an unholy design against the unionized workers that attempts to maim the collective protests. They wreak injury intentionally to avenge the just opposition of the field workers. Nevertheless, the field workers continue to rise in defense of their rights and oppose all the arbitrary and unjust things imposed upon them.

The right to be represented by the union is a right for earning which the field workers had to struggle and make sacrifices in the past. The right of arriving at wage settlement through bargaining and bilateral (or tripartite, involving the labour authorities of the

government) wage agreement is a right which is lawfully recognized right in India and in every civilized nation. The field workers refuse to abandon these rights. Any management that desires to take away these rights will face obvious opposition from the mass of field workers.

The field workers cannot accept imposition of newer and newer working norms and conditions making hell of their life. ‘Work from Home’, digital calls, internet and app-based instructions on daily and hourly basis in relation to day to day sales promotion not only increases digital workload (in fact, intellectual workload), but also multiplies their existing manual workload . Increased overseeing (including round the clock surveillance through GPRS), overpowering, browbeating in the matter of day to day work is obviously linked to arbitrary disciplinary action and victimization and such abuse of technological marvel awfully robs the field workers and their customers (the doctors, Chemists) of their constitutionally-guaranteed right to privacy. If the employers find this deadly epidemic as an opportunity to impose their narrow agenda to rescind the existing service condition to make it bad to worse and try to treat them as slaves in the 21st century, then there will be opposition and there will be obvious confrontation. Field workers’ movement will ensure that every onslaught on field workers will beget confrontation and resistance, without exception.

The field workers in these companies, in particular, and in all other companies, in general, are fighting tooth and nail against these new forms and methods of torture. They refuse to give in, in spite of all odds. Wage blockade brings great hardship. Their savings erodes and lending mounts. The unpaid grocery bills and other debts take its toll. There is obvious cut in calories and proteins in the diet of the babies and children. The adults, including old men and women, modify their taste and shift to cheaper diets and alternatives. But children refuse to do that. In families after families there is spectacle of war-like situation. In fact these pharmaceutical companies impose a vicious war and wreck injury upon the life of the field workers.

But field workers fight this out. They continue to struggle with undaunted spirit and make sacrifices- unpublished, silent sacrifices- still with smile in their face. Not their sufferings, but their faith in the worth of struggle and their conviction make them real-life hero. Thus, creating newer and newer examples of spirit of struggle, hero and heroines are emerging

in the actual battlefield of struggle in the field workers movement. .

In this background if the management invents new languages of torture, then field workers movement too will invent new languages of resistance. Terrorization, bullying and salary blockade will be challenged in each instance involving the field. Law will take its own course. The law may look at ‘salary blockade’ as ‘delay in payment of wages’ which indeed will not reveal the cruelty inherent in it. It may or may not take account of the actual hardship of the workers. But, if the field workers suffer they will demand justice, be it legal, ethical, moral or whatever it is.

FMRAI reiterates that field workers’ movement must occupy field. The managers and supervisors sent by the employers shall face angry field workers and they will be shamed for coming to field without paying the wage. The shamed manager of the famed company should prepare answer to face the community of field workers.

Field workers’ movement developed at a time when there was no meaningful law for the field workers. Arbitrary action could hardly be challenged in the court of law at that time. But, it did not prevent field workers to organize under FMRAI and move together and build up nationwide movement and organize resistance against many such acts of aggression. Acts and laws were created through the course of field workers movement. Today some laws exist but the managements grossly violates them after getting cue from the government. The government too attempts to take away some benefits and laws. This situation is not totally dissimilar. Therefore, struggles, even if it is bitter, will be built up against the atrocities of the individual employers and the field workers movement will rely more on movemental course of action than on divine intervention and take recourse to law whatever available. The protection and implementation of existing laws and earning of more of legal benefits has always depended on movemental course of action, as it is now.

But today the field workers movement has much larger a capacity to organize a movement and mobilize all sections of field workers. This advantage will be translated into action and the ‘sharp weapon of organization and movement’ will be employed everywhere to prevent the malicious tilting of employer-employee relationship in favor of the employers.

If war is imposed upon the field workers, then it will be fought and won.

D.P. Dubey memorial lecture

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and all these actions of this government have to be resisted with all might. Field workers too are facing this dual attack of the employers and the government. All these aggressive onslaughts have to be countered in every step. The answer lies in militant struggle, the path of which is no alien to FMRAI, he observed in the concluding part of his lecture.

Beginning his deliberation Santanu Chatterjee made a point regarding professed ‘digital initiatives’. He stated that the stand of FMRAI stands vindicated once again even during the online programme as well. No technology, be it electronic and internet technology or any other, can do its desired function without appropriate infrastructure and access to such infrastructure to the population. This is what FMRAI continues to argue when some management imposes some technology upon the field workers without considering the perspective and without arranging the infrastructure. He stated this in the context of disruption of this online programme for few minutes over some technical glitches.

While dealing with impact of the pandemic upon the workers and the field workers he referred to a joint statement WHO, ILO, FAO and IFAD that warned about increased food insecurity, undernourishment and hunger as an aftermath of the pandemic. In fact, this warning has been true to the present situation in our country. While people has lost their livelihood and poor became poorer India created new billionaires even during this worst phase of pandemic, obviously this reckless profiteering and widening inequality is attained the courtesy of the policies of the present government in india. Now, after the codes have been enacted and rules framed, the government is calling the trade union for discussion. Now, the government calls trade unions as they have been compelled to call them in the face of continuous opposition of the working class. But, the employers have already got the

cue from the anti-worker policies of the government and they have mounted their fresh attacks upon the workers. Newer and newer forms of attacks are mounted upon the field workers. Work from home, digital calls, apps and internet-based work without providing device or the infrastructure, online tests every day, round the clock surveillance are newer context of attacks upon the field workers and these things have become the new languages of torture of the management. These issues have also become newer excuses for senseless victimization of the field workers. While actual wages are declining in the heat of overall price rise, the management of some companies is blocking the earned wages of the field workers. But even in the ace of such attacks and atrocities field workers are fighting for their rights and for their rights only they are making sacrifices. He emphasized that this spirit of struggle is the mainstay of all the movements of FMRAI. In the face of managements attack field workers have no other option but to confront. Organization has to reach to all the field workers and each field worker- members and non-member. Field workers’ campaign programmes and the struggles shall reach to the field and must take hold of the market. In this phase of pandemic, these attacks have increased especially due to home confinement and restrictions. This situation has to be reversed with increased initiative and Struggle, he underscored in the concluding part of his deliberation. Ramesh Sundar, moderating the online meeting introduced Amitabha Guha to the audience making brief introduction about him. He briefly described the contribution of D. P. Dubey in the field workers’ movement. D.P. Dubey, the beloved leader, passed away at the age of seventy four on 26th August, 2016. He served the organization, FMRAI, as General Secretary, for long 22 years from 1991 to 2013 and made has unforgettable contribution in the field workers movement in the country.

Workshop on labour rights

MPMSRU

Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh Medical & Sales Representatives’ Union had organized a Workshop on 18 July, 2021 on the impending attacks on Labour Rights of the working class earned through relentless struggle over the years. The workshop was conducted in virtual mode consisting of the leadership of State & Unit officer bearers and council leaders. The need of the workshop was felt since the Centre Government had drafted 4 Labour Codes repelling the existing labour laws but due to pandemic this could not be held in physical mode on account of the imposed restrictions by the State Government. Considering the situation, the state working committee decided to conduct the

workshop virtually. Comrade J. S. Majumdar, former General Secretary of FMRAI & National Vice President of CITU was the main speaker in the workshop. He explained the politics and policies behind the government’s attacks on labour rights of the workers. He also elaborated the impact of Labour Codes on field workers and on their rights achieved through continuous fight against the anti worker policies and politics. He also suggested the various ways to combat the ensuing challenges to be posed due to imposition of the Labour Codes. Comrade J. S. Majumdar also addressed the queries of the participants in a very lucid manner. The Workshop was attended by 117 leadership of MPMSRU.

Obituary

K.V. Krishnakumar (51)



All India
Convener of
Alkem and
State
Committee
Member of
KMSRA met
with a
massive road
accident and

breathed his last on 23rd August. He was based at Trichur . The accident occurred some hundred meters away from his residence.

Krishnakumar has left his wife and daughter who have completed her post graduation. He was elected as the state convener of Alkem council in KMSRA in 2010. He has started his career as a medical representative in Gufic in 1992 at Malappuram, Kerala. Later on, he joined Alkem in 1994.FMRAI deeply condoles his death and expresses heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

Dey's Medical

Agreement on upward revision of Daily Allowances and Travel Fare



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the management of Dey's Medical and the Consultative committee of field workers (CCFW) of FMRAI on

upward revision of Daily Allowances and Travel Fare on 7th August 2021 for the period between 1st January, 2020 and 31st December, 2021 in Kolkata.

The Daily allowances stand revised as - HQ from Rs.207 to Rs.230, Ex-HQ from Rs.225 to Rs.245, Out-Station from Rs.500 to Rs.550. Hill Station Allowance revised from Rs.85 to Rs.100, Additional Metro Allowance from Rs.45 to Rs.55, Meeting Allowance from Rs.100 to Rs.200. The travel fare is upwardly revised from Rs.45 to Rs.52 one way for the first 10 KMs and subsequently from Rs.2.64 to Rs.2.85 per kilometer one way. On 4th and 5th August, 2021 a memorandum of understanding was also signed on day-to-day Work Inputs of the sales promotion employees between the management of Dey's group of companies and the Consultative committee of field workers (CCFW) of FMRAI. The meetings were held in a cordial atmosphere and management and union agreed to strengthen bilateral relation for mutual interest.

Wage Settlement in IND



9th wage settlement was signed between WBMSRU and Indian National Drug Company Pvt. Ltd (IND), a small scale sector pharmaceutical company based at West Bengal, on 28th August, 2021. Sisir Saha, President and Basab Roychowdhury, Secretary, along with negotiating committee

members signed the agreement on behalf of WBMSRU. The agreement will be effective from 1st April, 2021 and shall be in force till 31st March, 2024 or till replaced by a fresh settlement. As per agreement, average financial benefit will be Rs. 2665 with highest and lowest benefit of Rs. 4010 and 1757 respectively. Apart from that, daily allowance will be hiked by Rs. 15 per day every year for next three years and Kilometre-wise fare will be hiked by Rs.2 per Kilometre from existing Rs. 1.5 per Kilometre. Twenty five (25) field workers will be financially benefited out of this settlement.

Two days of strike in Himalaya

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Chhatishgarh by the members belonging to council subcommittee and other members of MPMSRU. Strike programmes were also implemented by the members belonging to council subcommittee and other members of MPMSRU at Indore, Bhopal and Jabalpur involving the depot and stockists of the company. Demonstration was organized in front of the C & F of the company at Alampur in the Howrah district and at Siliguri in the Darjeeling district of WBMSRU in spite of very inclement weather. In Andhra Pradesh, memorandum was submitted in the depot premises at Vijayawada by members of APMSRU. Memoranda were also submitted to the stockists in Vizag. The members of Vizag unit also submitted memoranda to the company managers. In UP and Uttarakhand, memorandum was submitted to the stockists in Mandi, Gorakhpur and Hamirpur by the respective units of UPMSRA. In MSMRA submission of memorandum to stockists was organized in Yavatamal, Sangli, Kolhapur, Bhandara, Amravati, Usmanabad, Dhule, Nanded, Jalna, Aurangabad, Beed and Jalgaon towns of Maharashtra. In others states too similar programmes were organized. Himalaya drugs field workers embarked on the path of struggle as number of victimization, aggressive actions and onslaught of the management could not be resolved through discussion with

the welfare committee. In spite of repeated persuasions by Himalaya drug council and FMRAI the management of the company did not pay heed to the burning issues and grievances of the field workers. The management's absolute reluctance for negotiated resolution compelled the field workers to respond with reciprocal industrial action. Arousing resentment among the field workers and disturbing industrial peace and harmony, the management closed down the operation of Zeus Division throughout the country and retrenched hundreds of field workers who were either in direct employment or were appointed under contractor. Subsequently, the management started recruiting new field workers replacing the dismissed field workers in different vacant territories and arrogantly ignored the request of FMRAI and its All India Committee for restoration the services of the retrenched field workers of Zeus Division which was closed down unlawfully transgressing the law of the land. Restoration of services of the retrenched franchisee field workers under principal employer was also turned down. On the contrary, management made efforts to unilaterally change the service and working conditions of the field workers under various forms of threat and intimidation. Instead of resolving the issues, the management precipitated further attacks. Their misadventures of mounting further attacks through

adoption of various unfair labour practices were rebuffed by the field workers and FMRAI. The management issued charge sheet to the All India Convener on cooked-up charges and subsequently suspended him. The management started locking the reporting portals of the field workers and started obstructing them from reporting their daily work. In addition to this the management, at the whim and fancy of a section of the management, confined the work of some field workers in their headquarters in different parts of the country. Expenses, which the field workers incurred during their field work, were not reimbursed by management for months together causing immense suffering. The management dismissed field workers on meritless excuse during the pendency of Industrial Dispute at the office of the Labour Commissioner. FMRAI repeatedly approached the management and requested them to refrain from attacking the field workers and urged upon the management not to take law in their own hand and to start discussion for amicable resolution of issues and grievances of the field workers to which the management has not responded yet. Since the management of Himalaya chooses to disrespect the civilizational path of negotiation and continues to be inspired by the 'animal instinct' prevailing in the industry, therefore the field workers and FMRAI had no other option but to resort to industrial action.

Zydus : path of struggle

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irrational and without considering the difficulties of the sales promotion employees. The objective of the management is to intrude into the privacy of customers and the fieldworkers through digital mode. All collective protests of the workers against individual surveillance and tracking are being responded by the management with punitive actions of withholding expenses and threat of disciplinary actions. In certain instances, the management of Zydus has also resorted to motivated transfers and terminations of the field workers throughout India for actively protesting against the atrocities of the management. Earlier, the same management closed down the business operation of **Platinex** division with an alibi of strategic business decision due to non-viability and had retrenched a large number of the field workers. The management did not absorb these field workers in other operative divisions of the company where vacancy was created and recruited new sales promotion employees. In Biochem Vivo division, since long FMRAI is the recognized union through six successive wage settlements. Instead of settling the 7th Charter of Demands as placed by FMRAI in 2018, management tried to impose unilateral and unreasonable work systems with surveillance and constant tracking. During the ongoing period of negotiation, the management resorted to threat and allurements of the sales promotion employees for conversion to the post of TBM which not only attempts to replace the nomenclature of Medical Representatives but also take away trade union rights keeping them outside the purview of bargaining rights with changed service condition in contravention to the legal provisions and section 2(d) of Sales Promotion Employees (Condition of Service) Act, 1976. Such attempt of de-unionization is being pursued by the management vigorously. The fieldworkers of Zydus, organized in councils, protested against all these anti worker actions of the Zydus management. In retaliation, the company with a malafide intention has transferred about 53 fieldworkers of Vivo division across the country to distance places, including the leaders of the council, who were pursuing their pending Charter of demands. Recently, management has terminated

eight fieldworkers including two Grievance/ Negotiating Committee Members of FMRAI. To protest against these unilateral and unlawful activities of Zydus management, the field workers under banner of FMRAI protested throughout the country. On the 11th of August all field workers of Zydus sent SMS to the management asking to revoke all transfers and termination issues of Biochem and other divisions. They also demanded payback of all deducted wages and expenses and rollback of all unilaterally imposed work norms. As per reports overwhelming numbers of field worker across the country have sent SMS to the management. Dharna and Demonstrations were organized in front of company's establishments at state capitals in all states and delegations of the state leadership met the distributors of Zydus at sub units and sent protest memorandum through them to the management. In the meantime, strong protest demonstration in front of Biochem executives continued during joint fieldwork across the country and memoranda were submitted to all managers of Zydus during joint field work. MSMRA organized demonstration in front of Zydus Healthcare Head Office in Mumbai and memorandum was submitted to the management. Demonstration was also organized in Jabalpur and other places by members of MPMSRU and in Chennai by TNMSRA. Apart from these, demonstrations were also organized before the company C & F in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan by OSRU, UPMSRA and RMSRU, in three places in Telengana by TMSRU. CRU organized the demonstration on the 5th of August, 2021. In Bulandsheher, members of UPMSRA submitted memoranda to three distributors of Zydus. KMSRA held demonstrations in the state capital of Trivundrum on the 16th August, 2021. Members of APMSRU in Andhra Pradesh demonstrated before the company depot at Kondapalli, Vijayawada. The Vizag unit also sent memorandum to the management through distributors. The similar programmes were organized by members of UPMSRA in Mirzapur, Ayodhya, Balia, Jaunpur and Gonda unit. UPMSRA also conducted programme against the management in Lucknow on 11th August, 2021. The programme organized by RMSRU was also widely covered by the local media.

Indoco : fieldworkers combat

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to put themselves under surveillance through activation of GPRS system or location identifier deviating from the submission in the industrial tribunal. FMRAI has filed a review petition in industrial court at Mumbai in this regard. In spite of compliance of the order of the industrial court by the sales promotion employees there had been arbitrary deduction/ withholding of salaries of many sales promotion employees and the portals of several fieldworkers were blocked to prevent them from submitting their work reports. The management of Indoco is desperately violating the laws of the land and imposing various hardships to the sales promotion employees in this pandemic situation of the country. Every now and then management is adopting one or other anti-worker policies like issuance of suspension order without any valid reason; implicating the sales promotion employees for non-submission of stock statement by the respective stockiest; taking punitive actions if desired number of customers are not met by the sales promotion employees without considering difficulties being faced by them arising out of pandemic situation.

Moreover, management in violation of Payment of Wage Act, has not yet released the withheld salaries of many sales promotion employees of various states across the country. Several letters were sent to the management which were grossly ignored. The management of Indoco Remedies forced the fieldworkers to undertake field work endangering their lives and of their families during declared lockdown or imposed various restrictive measures by different state Governments to contain the spread of the virulent disease. The desperate attacking attitude of the management has terrorized the sales promotion employees of Indoco. They are facing the threat on their livelihood too. In the given circumstances, FMRAI initiated industrial actions in the form of campaign to the doctors in Physical/ Digital mode. Indoco field workers sent SMS to the management demanding reimbursement of illegally deducted wages. Demonstration programmes were conducted before company establishments across the country followed by strong protest demonstration before the company executives during joint field work. State and sub units

have lodged labour complaint for recovery of unpaid wages based on the available documents. Memorandum submission and strong protest demonstration to the company managers was successfully organized at Sasaram, Ranchi, Patna, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijaywada, Guntur, Bhopal, Darjeeling, Nadia, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hoogly, Kolkata and many other places. Massive demonstration was organised on 20 August, 2021 in front of Kolkata CFA. All fieldworkers of Spade division boycotted lunch and tea during company conference at Vijaywada for consecutive days and APMSRU submitted memorandum to GM of the company. On behalf of MSMRA Joint General Secretaries Vinod Gupta and Snehadheep Kulkarni submitted a memorandum to the Labour Minister of Maharashtra with a demand to initiate appropriate legal action against the unfair labour practices of Indoco. All programmes are being carried out in a befitting manner against the atrocities of the management by MPMSRU, BSSRU, APMSRU, TMSRU, WBMSRU and other state units. The sales promotion employees are unitedly facing the wrath of the management and facing the challenges valiantly.

D.P. Dubey memorial lecture

Commemorating D P Dubey on his 5th death anniversary



5th death anniversary of D P Dubey, seminar at Guwahati, CRU

Commemoration of D.P. Dubey, the former General Secretary of FMRAI and the beloved leader, with full honor and love, was organized across the country on his 5th death anniversary on 26th August, 2021. On this occasion he was remembered by members and sympathizers of FMRAI. In state units and subunits of FMRAI floral tributes to D.P. Dubey were offered in front of his framed photographs in the state and subunit offices across the country. D.P. Dubey functioned as General Secretary of FMRAI for long 22 years (1991-2013) and he passed away on 26th August, 2016, in a private nursing home in Kolkata after prolonged illness. He was 74 at the time of his death. CRU organized seminar on 'Last three decades of Indian Economy' at BTR auditorium, CRU building, Ulubari, Guwahati remembering D.P. Dubey (who was the founder General Secretary of CRU) which was attended by large number of members. Joydeep Barua, Economist and Professor of Economics in KK Handique University, Assam, was the main speaker in the seminar who dealt on the subject of three decades of economic liberalization in India and its impact on the people. Bijan Das, former general secretary of CRU played

the role of moderator in the seminar which was also attended by another former general secretary of CRU, Prafulla Sarma. All units of CRU, including Guwahati (CRU centre), Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Nalbari, Naogaon, Bongaigaon, Agartala held meeting at their unit offices and offered floral tributes. Tezpur and Shillong units organized commemoration in virtual form. Remembering D.P. Dubey floral tributes were offered at FMRAI centre, Kolkata. Commemorating D.P. Dubey floral tributes were offered at WBMSRU centre, Kolkata, at TMSRU centre, Hyderabad and at unit office Karimnagar, Telangana, at unit office in Kollam, KMSRA, at Goa by Goa MRA. Working Committee members of Mandi unit of HPMRA remembered D.P. Dubey in its meeting on 26th August, 2021. All subunits of FMRAI were likely to hold General Meeting on the subject of 'Campaign and agitation in the time of pandemic' with mass of members on 26th August, 2021 in memory of D P Dubey. This programme could not be organized in view of ongoing 2nd wave of the viral disease across the nation. In this background FMRAI organized popular lecture over virtual platform on the same subject.

commented adversely on the badly-managed pandemic by the government in India.

Every protest, every opposition in democratic manner is attracting wrath of the government! While the entire health system in the country was being collapsed the innocent people were being arrested on framed up charges unleashing the reign of terror. The government recommended all irrational things for the treatment of corona virus abandoning the evidence-based scientific therapies and guidelines which are being followed worldwide. Thus, in the time of grave pandemic several actions of the government created total confusion. Confusions were created even in case vaccines and duration of its dosage. Government has taken no step to step up vaccination and vaccine shortage still remains overwhelming. India joins hand in international collaboration in space research and research in particle physics but not in making vaccines freely available. Besides, the vaccine production has still remains a oligopoly of a few companies as the government wants to promote profitability of a few corporations at the expense of the people of the country. When the government is imposing everything unjust and irrational (including unjust codes, laws and restrictions) upon the workers, the peasants and the common people, CITU calls upon all to defy such irrational impositions. Irrational labour codes have been brought making a travesty of democratic principles. Now, the rules under the codes have been framed. Surprisingly, these rules – which are bound to be subservient to the codes-now overrides the code making a complete mockery of these labour laws. This government is acting against the interest of the people of the country

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Field workers observe Save India Day

9th August, 2021

corporate to resort to wage cuts and other forms of ugly oppressions and exploitation which affected the workers, the peasants and the common people alike. Besides national lockdown by the central government, the extended lockdowns and restrictions by the state and local governments, contributed to uncountable miseries in the lives of millions of organized and unorganized section of workers in the country. Right from the early months of lockdown last year, CITU along with other trade unions and mass organizations including AIKS and AIAWU have been agitating to get a fair and humane treatment of the governments for the working class, peasantry and the common people to wade through difficult water in the time of this disastrous epidemic disease. While on one hand the profiteering corporate amassed huge wealth during the disease-outbreak and disease-spread, from one wave to another, the people were exploited more by the corporate, taxed more by the government and became poorer and poorer. While the big business made their fortune, the poverty of the population increased further and health the nation's economy declined and reached to a proportion hitherto unreached. The pauperizations of the urban workers especially in the small and medium scale industries were boundless. The peasants and the

agricultural workers faced the cruellest challenges during these times especially on account of the policies adopted by the central government. In the last one and half years the field workers throughout the country have also suffered immensely through skyrocketing fuel prices and general price-rise and consequent erosion of their wages. In addition to that the apathy of the government towards universal vaccination has also made people and the field workers suffer and it took toll of life. The direct attack on the rights of the workers was initiated by the government itself in the form changing the labour laws and satisfying the desire of the employers and big business thereby sending clear signals to the employers and encouraging them to retrench, oppress, harass and victimize the workers in various industries - all during the pandemic. Save India day was organized and observed with demands of undoing these injustices. Save India day was observed by raising the demands of the people and included scrapping of anti-worker Labour Codes and anti-people Farm Laws and Electricity Amendment Bill, minimum support price (at the rate of twice the cost of production and additional fifty percent) for agricultural produce for all crops with guaranteed procurement, roll back of sharp rise in prices of essential commodities, petrol, diesel, gas, cooking oil etc, no retrenchment or wage cuts, compensation against job and wage loss during pandemic,

enrollment of all migrant and unorganized sector workers in register, creation of more jobs and filling up of all vacancies in government and public sector companies, minimum wages and social security and pension to all workers including casual, contract, scheme workers and unorganized workers, cash transfer of Rs 7500 per month for all non-income tax paying families, increase the budget allocation on MGNREGA to ensure minimum 200 days work @ Rs.600 per day, enactment of Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme, withdrawal of all discriminatory advisory proposal for caste-based work and payment in MNREGA, ten kilograms of free food grains per person per month for the entire period of the pandemic, immediate free and universal vaccination to all with priority to frontline workers, ramping up vaccine production and bringing the distribution under government regulation to ensure universal free vaccination within a definite time frame, scrap the pro corporate vaccine policy, compensation on Covid deaths as per Supreme Court direction, allocation of 6% of GDP for health sector, strengthening the public health system and the health infrastructure including recruiting the necessary health personnel to ensure adequate hospital beds, oxygen and other medical facilities to meet the Covid surge; bringing end to privatization spree of and PSUs and Government departments.



Save India Day, Balia, UPMSRA

Joint Campaign was organized by Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU) during the fortnight ending 8th August 2021 with a view to successfully organize 'Save India Day', the protest day demanding the burning issues of the workers and peasants, which was scheduled on 9th August, 2021. All state units of FMRAI took this call to the members and the people. The members of FMRAI observed 9th August as 'Save India Day' in a befitting manner along with CITU and other organizations by participating in the programmes of the protest day. The participation of the field workers was not limited to the big cities but was held in the district towns witnessing

participation of large number of members in those places. Anger of the workers, the field workers, the agricultural workers anger and the peasants against the corporate-friendly-government at the centre, flowed in one stream across the country on 9th August, 2021. During the last seven years, the working class, the peasantry and the common people are facing almost insurmountable obstacles to run their day to day lives and maintain their livelihood, which has further mounted during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions imposed by the government. In addition to the millions of job losses and loss of livelihood, epidemic and its restrictions created opportunities for the employers and