

## 8th March- Women organized throughout India

Centuries have passed but the outlook of society remains largely the same about women who continue to be exploited. The 48th International Working Women's Day observed in this year had the similar significance as the 1st one organized in 1857.

Society tactically tries to refrain women from social thought processes, so that they can be brought up with only senses of duties and responsibilities without any rights. In the name of religion and cultural heritage, women are pushed backwards and easily targeted as victims. In 1910, a resolution was adopted for IWD with the demands of 8 hours of work, voting rights, gender equality and for conducive working environment. All these demands still wait to be established in many places. The voices are attempted to be kept silent through piecemeal welfare measures by the governments

ignoring women's values and rights, keeping silent on brutalities of society against women. Understanding the basic rights and women's consolidation to establish it in society becomes of utmost important movement.

Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Association of India has a legacy to observe Women's Day pan India for decades. This year also, IWD was observed in every state, independently or with CITU, AIDWA and other organization during the period of 8th March to 12th March. In the sales promotion industry, from multinational corporates to Other Industry sectors, women's recruitment is gradually increasing but the working conditions are worsening. FMRAI always encourages women field workers' movements by consolidating them all over the country.

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■ Programme at Kannur.

## National Convention of workers declare strike

The National Convention of Workers was held at Pyarelal Bhawan in New Delhi on 18th March 2025. The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and different industrial federations met earlier and assessed the situation of the working class as more than alarming as the union government is fast and aggressive in pursuing the anti-worker, anti-people policies. The National Convention of Workers participated by all central trade unions and independent national federations representing all sections of the working people of our country noted that

after assuming power for the third time, the NDA Government at the very beginning started sending advisories to state labour ministries for preparing draft rules of four labour codes. The Union Labour Minister held meeting with the labour secretaries of states and other officials on 29th and 30th January 2025 and once again made their intentions clear that the Union Government is going to implement the anti-labour pro-corporate four labour codes. These four labour codes have been framed at the behest of crony corporate government nexus with the objective

of imposing slavery on the working class. The four labour codes have been plan fully and objectively drafted by the government to dismantle the existing rights of the workers earned through sacrifices and resolute struggle. The codes are going to put in serious adverse impact on basic working conditions including working hours, minimum wages, social security benefits and shall curb collective rights to unionisation, recognition, collective bargaining, agitations/struggles and any form of collective expressions of protests including right to strikes, together

with atrocious and vindictive punitive measures against any collective form of dissent by the workers. The labour codes have been drafted with a heinous design under corporate influence to destroy the basic human rights of the working class. The employers of the pharmaceuticals and other industries are major part of this corporate influencers aligning with the union government and already aggressively affecting several anti-worker measures including terminations, transfers, wage deductions and

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## Fresh developments in Alkem

We have apprised you through our March edition of FMRAI news on a new form of attack in Alkem. Management of this company, unilaterally, changed the service conditions of nearly 50 sales promotion employees. By introducing a "Retail" division, management transferred their jobs, mostly council leaderships, from their existing divisions to this new venture, without divulging the

operational part in detail. Further, management, whimsically withheld salaries of 13 SPEs for the month of February. Initiated with memorandum and demand text message to the higher management, the agitation intensified further as time went by. West Bengal witnessed a thunderous demonstration programme involving 300 Alkem SPEs who assembled from the adjacent districts to protest against

the atrocities of the management. Along with daily non-cooperation by the field workers of Alkem, council subcommittee exhibited strong protest demonstration across the country. Encouraging news of implementation of various agitation programmes poured in from different corners. Facing the heat of the movement, management released the withheld salaries of the SPEs. In a letter, addressed to field workers, the HR head had

revealed the strategies of the newly launched division and assured them of continuation of the job role of Sales Promotion Employees, assigning doctors and other stakeholders, as existing practice. Owing to the positive development, it has been decided to keep the agitation at abeyance for the time being. FMRAI is keeping a close eye on the future developments in Alkem, apprehending new headwinds in the industry.

## Charter of demand in Abbott India Ltd

Abbott India has signed a Charter of Demands with the Abbott Employees Union, benefiting 164 medical representatives and Territory Business Developers. This three-year settlement (2023-2026) ensures an average wage hike of 7,100. The working

conditions remained mostly unchanged, with some minor changes. In the volatile pharma industry, where job security is increasingly precarious, this agreement emphasizes the vital importance of worker unity. Collective action remains essential for advocating fair treatment and improved conditions. The success at Abbott serves as a clarion call for pharmaceutical workers to stand together, fighting for their rights and a more equitable future.

## EDITORIAL

# Corporate generic is not the solution: Reduce prices of all medicines

The concept of selling medicines in the name of generics through an official government outlet was conceived about 17 years ago by the then UPA Government. The idea, although debatable and contradictory to the position of the government itself, was apparently pious and ostensibly meant for the benefit of the common people of the country. That concept of Jana Aushadhi Scheme, like many other schemes of the earlier government has now been hijacked by the Modi government as a corporate backed, aggressively promoted project which will be used to weed out competitions, lay foundations for new monopoly investments in a hitherto unexplored sector where huge prospects lay. The name has also interestingly changed to enhance the ruling party's prospects as PMBJP. In the west, public health discourses have revolved around the possible alternatives of the highly priced patented drugs and generics occupied the center space of that discussion. In India however, the situation was different. The Indian Patent Act 1970 allowed the growth of number of pharma companies which produced molecules with different brand names and prevented monopolization of patented medicines. Further the strong price control mechanism under DPCO 1970 also played a huge role to control predatory pricing of the companies and keep branded generics affordable for the common people of India. Therefore, although a section of health care activists in India always spoke strongly in favour of the generic medicines as the panacea of all evils, somewhat toeing the western health care activist model, it really was not felt necessary by the public and the clinicians in general as the intervention from the government was felt in checking prices.

All of the above changed when the country adopted the free market policy in the nineties and consequent dilution of the IPA 1970. Parallely, the Public Sector in pharmaceuticals were also weakened and the stringent cost based price control mechanism was gradually given away for

more relaxed market-based price control by changing the DPCO. All these changes never had any positive impact on the availability and accessibility of medicines for the common people of the country. On the contrary, the prices of medicines, as a resultant of the above policies started to shoot up. The controlled drugs were regularly allowed to increase their prices as per the market and the uncontrolled ones were free to be increased. This new policy enormously impacted the out-of-pocket expenses of medicines for the people. The vulnerable section in the society is the worst hit with serious budgetary impediments in buying medicines. It is exactly at this crucial juncture of a society exasperated with ever increasing medicine prices cutting holes in their pocket that the central government, itself responsible for framing policies for escalating prices, suddenly started actively talking about generic drugs being the great respite for the distressed common people in India. PMBJP stores were opened, and in various central government hospitals and dispensaries brand promotion of medicines are banned to pave way for prescriptions only being served by Jana Aushadhi counters. Taking the cue from the government and sniffing profits in the expanding market, now the private players are quickly jumping in the bandwagon of initiating their generic business by opening new divisions. The private retail chains are already in the fray by opening their own generic medicines which is being sold from their own counters with the serious risk of alterations of prescriptions.

This shift towards generics from branded medicines is likely to have significant disruptions in the established network of medicine dispensation in India. Firstly, the market will transform from a prescription-based service to a dispensation-based service. The stocking and selling of medicines will not depend on the choice of the doctor anymore, rather it will depend on free schemes and discounts offered to retailers and wholesalers. Only those generics which fetch the

highest profit for the trade will get dispensed. Whether that benefit will be transferred to the patients or not is a debatable question, but for sure the quality aspect of a given medicine will take a backseat. It is this area which is the most concerning, given the fact that the reports coming from all across the globe and in our own country on the quality of medicines are not uniformly good. The race of discounts, which is likely to begin soon will compel the retailers and the wholesalers to run amok to find sellers with offers of high discounts. It is also this gray area that will form loopholes for fake medicines to enter in the market.

Secondly, the future situation will also have marked impact on all those who are involved in prescription medicine promotion and sales. Already the indications from some companies are ripe that alteration of the sales promotion activity is going to take place in the generic divisions. The shifting of manpower from the prescription models to dispensing models is likely to alter the working norms heavily leading to changes in service conditions. The promotion work itself will undergo massive change in the quasi FMCG model. The boundaries of ethics and unethical promotion also will get hazy.

Finally, the entry of corporates in the generic business is not likely to benefit the customers in the long run as the motive will still remain of predatory profiteering from ailing people. Neither will it strengthen the public sector as almost all medicines sold through Jana Aushadhi are made by private manufacturers. The basic issue is to control the prices of all medicines through stringent price control mechanism which the government itself has diluted in a very calculated manner. Now systematically the bogey of price rise of branded medicines is being raised to facilitate creation/expansion of a market which will eventually be dominated by corporates. The people, meanwhile will continue to suffer being victim of the machinations of the corporate friendly government.

## ... declares to strike back

Turn from P 1

...imposing inhuman working conditions in the form of new digital work systems, tracking and surveillance. The dubious claim of "Ease of doing business" by the Union Government is actually turning out to be "Ease of exploitation" of the workers.

The National Convention also noted that the decision of implementing Labour Codes is integral to the ongoing project of the corporate class to drastically curb the basic democratic and constitutional rights of the common people including curbing the rights of freedom of expression and collective assertion of dissent through numerous enactments like UAPA, PMLA and the latest edition of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). In fact, the collective protest actions, even collective lodging of complaints by the workers and their unions are being interpreted as "organized crime" as per section 111 of BNS leading to harsh and repressive police actions that include non-bailable imprisonment of the workers and functionaries of the unions.

The National Convention was addressed by the leadership of all central trade unions and all the unions collectively asserted that the united working-class movement cannot remain a silent onlooker to the repressive anti-worker policy

regime. The National Convention upholds the 17-point charter of demands formulated by the Joint Platform of Trade Unions through previous National Convention on 30.1.2023 covering the basic rights to lives and livelihood of the working people of both the organized and unorganized sector and self-employed occupations. Accordingly, the National Convention of Workers, calls upon the working people of the country to prepare for higher level of combative resistance both at national and industry level through a series of joint actions and calls for observance of a massive Nationwide General Strike on 20th May 2025.

FMRAI, being the national federation of the Sales Promotion Employees (SPEs) and being one of the key constituents of this united working class movement, calls for reaching to all sections of SPEs through the 17 point charter of demand that provides decent alternative to the disastrous police regime of the union government and 11 points demand of FMRAI addressed to Union Government, State governments and the employers. This General Strike on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 shall be observed through defying the repressive policies and to defeat the regressively disastrous Labour Codes to save the working class and the nation.

## Obituary

heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family.

**Abhinesh Shukla**, a member of Itarsi unit of MPMSRU breathed his last at an young age of 38 years only during March, 2025. He was working with Pharmanova. He left behind his wife and daughter. FMRAI condoles this untimely death of Abhinesh Shukla and sends

**Chandan Nath Sharma**, a member of OSRU, working in Shine pharmaceuticals at Keonjhar, died in a tragic road accident while returning from work. FMRAI condoles this untimely death and send heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family.

## Albert David – Intensified battle continues

The Sales Promotion Employees (SPEs) working in Albert David company are in the middle of spirited struggle and resolutely fighting out the onslaught of the management. The management has been blazing one after another attack to marginalize the SPEs of Sunrise division by floating newer

divisions, shifting the major brands to other divisions along with threats of victimization. Further the management has been violating all agreed understandings including memorandum of understanding (MOU) to implement the unilaterally imposed newer work systems. But after adopting several unfair ways



and means as well as violating the laws, the management remained unsuccessful in breaking the spirit of the SPEs and the resistance by the SPEs has frustrated the management. The management has failed to subjugate the fighting SPEs to accept the unilateral financial offer without the rights.

Industrial actions

against the management in different forms are been continuously implemented across the country in the sub units. In the month of March, 2025, demonstrations were organised by different state units and campaign was also organised.

TNMSRA organised demonstration at CFA on 21<sup>st</sup> march, 2025,

which was addressed by P. Sathyanarayanan, president TNMSRA. Demonstration was also organised on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 by BSSRU at Patna. WBMSRU organised massive demonstration in front of the head office at Kolkata. The spirited struggle against the unjust actions of the management shall continue.

# 21st State Conference of DSMRO

**2**1st State Conference of Delhi Sales and Medical Representatives' Organization was held at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi on 23/03/2025. Naresh Sharma President, DSMRO hoisted the Union Flag.

JS Majumdar (former General Secretary of FMRAI) inaugurated the Conference. Amitava Guha (Secretary of CITU) addressed the Conference and discussed about attack on "Right to Work". The Conference was also greeted by Anurag Saxena (Vice President of CITU, Delhi) He called upon the DSMRO members to ensure complete success of the All India General Strike on 20/05/2025.

Pankaj Kumar Kharb presented the General Secretary's Report. Pappu Kumar Chaurasia placed the Treasurer's Report. All the Reports were passed unanimously. Three Resolutions were adopted: 1) Minimum Wage, 2) Working Hours, 3) Demands of Women Workers. Sheshnath Tiwari, Secretary, FMRAI explained the demands of All India General Strike and called upon members to reach the unreached section of the fieldworkers in Delhi and improve the functioning of five Sub Units of DSMRO.

48 members attended the Conference. The Conference unanimously elected 23 members State Committee including 11 Secretariat Members. Naresh Sharma, Pappu Kumar Chaurasia and Abhishek Varma were elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer.



■ GB meeting at Jamshedpur sub unit

## General Body Meetings

**P**reparation for all India strike on 20th May has just begun. WCMs, GCMs are moving sub-units across the country in a phased manner to spread the message of FMRAI chalked out in 27th Conference held at Mumbai in February. All the 400 sub-units will hold GB Meetings within 30th April and will be attended by leaderships to reach all members across the country. Many state organizations like BSSRU, UPMSRA, APMSRU, TMSRU, WBMSRU have initiated

the proceedings with hundreds of members apprised on the point "Impact of derogatory 4 Labour Codes on Lives & livelihood of SPEs" and three identified problems like "Digital Attack & Intrusion in Privacy"; "Squeezing of Working Space & Active Promotion of Generics" and making "Sales as part of Service Conditions".

The response from the members were overwhelming, interactive sessions were held, leaders of the organization had

explained "Need of the Hour" of aggressive, uniform & regular program from every sub-unit by campaigning to the Doctors and Chemists & making vibrant three tier structure of the Organisation. The mood of the members is upbeat and they pledged to participate in all the ensuing programs designed by the organisation to make the "General Strike" on 20th May a grand success to thwart the ill motive of Union Govt. of their intention to implement four Labour Codes.

## CRU members protested against unethical trading along with ADDA

**A**t Guwahati Sales Promotion Employees, members of CRU protested against unethical trade practices imposed by pharmaceutical employers on their sales promotion employees to achieve the sales target. Some of the Drug dealers in connivance with

pharmaceutical employers, are trying to involve innocent SPEs to do the business by way of unethical practices. During Sales closing days large number of CRU members staged demonstration at the Dawa market against unethical trade practices. On 1st March 2025, joint meeting with Asam Drug Dealers and CRU leaders

was held. The meeting unanimously decided to stop the malpractices and unethical ways of conducting business. Asam Drug Dealers Association assured to cooperate the move of Union against unfair trade practices. Leaders from Drug dealers assured they will discuss in their own forum to take corrective measures.

## ... Women organized...

Turn from P 1

The 12 point demands of women workers were concised to 5 point demands for campaign.

This year during the IWD program, FMRAI campaigned and popularized these demands along with the common demands of AIDWA. Most of the state units and subunits successfully organized the program through hall meetings, felicitation of women field workers, organizing popular lectures, participating in rallies and street corners with CITU and AIDWA. In UPMSRA program was organized in Prayagraj, Bareilly, Lucknow, Jhashi, Basti, Ghorakhpur, Derhadun, Ballia, Shajahanpur, Kanpur, Orai, Pilibit, Rampur, Gonda and Varanasi. In PCMSRU hall meeting was held at Bhatinda. RMSRU state unit arranged hall meetings in Jodhpur, Bikaner, Churu subunits. In MSMRA programmes were held in ten units like Wardha, Sangili, Gondia, Bandra, Yavatmal, Akola, Solapur, Pimpri-Chinchwada, Kolhapur. In MPMSRU programme was held in Bhopal, Indore, Betul, Rewa, Gwalior units. CGSPEU state leaders addressed their women field workers at their state centre. A medical camp was organized on 8th March at Kurnool and one hall meeting was called at Kakinada in APMSRU. A rally was organized at the Dindigul unit along with other organisations. A renowned women gynaecologist was invited to the women's day program at Chennai and Kanchipuram. Villupuram, Vellore, Trichy, Coimbatore, Erode, Thanjavur

units of TNMSRA did the program. KMSRA continued their legacy of widely organizing IWD programs across the state. In Kannur a Senior Gynaecologist Dr Geeta Mekoth conducted a detailed class on women's healthcare, in Ernakulam program was inaugurated by Dr Lisamma Joseph and the Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad, Trissure, Alappuzha, Kottayam units organized the programs. In Thiruvananthapuram state Joint General Secretary A.V. Pradeep inaugurated the meeting. In BSSRU, Patna organised popular lecture on sexual harassment at work place and in Jamsedpur, Motihar, Begusarai, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Bokaro units observed the day. CRU (NER) organized hall meetings to greet all women field workers at Silchar, Tezpur, North Lakhimpur, Shillong, Nagaon, Dibrugarh and Jorhat. WBMSRU organized a hall meeting at state centre with members of 4 subunits (Kolkata, N24 parganas, Nadia and Howrah). The meeting was addressed by eminent leader of AIDWA, Rekha Goswami, Santanu Mitra, Secretary, FMRAI, Basab Roy Chowdhury, General Secretary, WBMSRU. Also Purba Bardhaman, Malda, Hooghly, Darjeeling and Uttar Dinajpur sub-units organized hall meetings with women field workers. More than 1000 women field workers were mobilized across the country on this occasion, who took the oath to forward the movement for establishing women's rights within the industry under the banner of FMRAI.

## Resolution on Medicine Related Demands

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mechanism thus the market forces will only decide the pricing of drugs and not any mechanism put forward by the authorities. In fact, the linking of price control with market forces is complete when the government allowed to fix the maximum price of controlled drugs on the weighted average formula by determining the average MRPs of top brands in the market.

The drugs that are under price control are free to increase prices at a rate of 10% every

year. We have seen the perils of our drug policy when we see that the out of pocket expenses for health care for Indians is highest when it comes to buying medicines. The poor, the elderly and the pensioners are the most vulnerable as they are the ones who need to buy medicines the most to keep themselves healthy. The above facts in addition to the meager allocation in health care by the government in successive budgets have literally resulted in increased rural poverty in India.

To divert the attention from its insincere desire to reign in profiteering in medicine prices, the government is continuously confusing the people to buy actively promoting generic drugs without any assurance in terms of quality or availability. This division between projecting generics as the real alternative to branded medicines and its refusal to bring the prices of branded medicines under viable control mechanism is a hypocritical approach of the government and

should be opposed. This standpoint has also caused the authorities to restrict the sales promotion work of the SPEs in many hospitals.

Meanwhile, the demand of FMRAI in making the UCPMP statutory with clear punitive measures has not been heeded by the government. The recent case of AbbVie who spent crores in sponsoring doctors for their products is a clear point how ineffective the UCPMP 2024 is in stopping the menace of unethical practices in the industry.

Many employers of the pharma industry are putting the onus of ethical marketing on the shoulders of the SPEs which is unacceptable and should be opposed.

Therefore, on all of the above issues, it is important to generate countrywide movements to put pressure on the government so that prices of medicines come down to affordable levels. Programmes need to be done at the GST offices to continuously put forward the demand for zero GST on medicines. The inherently contradictory

approaches of the government on generic medicines need to be highlighted to the members and the general people in whatever way possible. The pressure on the government to make UCPMP statutory should be done through conventions and meetings at all levels involving likeminded doctors and related organizations. This conference resolves to do all the above in a programmatic manner to bring justice to the people of the country in the medicine related area.

## GCM of TMSRU

The General Council Meeting of TMSRU was held on 8th and 9th March, 2025 at Sitaram Yechury Nagar (Hyderabad). The two days General Council Meeting commenced with the flag hoisting by the state President Ch Sreedhar followed by paying floral tributes to the martyrs column. S Veeriah, Vice President, CITU Telangana State Committee formally inaugurated the meeting and explained about the anti people and anti labour policies of Central Government. B Venkatramiah, General Secretary BEFI, AP and Telangana, K Parthasarathi, Vice President, All India Lawyers Union, Ravindranath. General Secretary, SCZIEF, Bhupal, Hon' President, Telangana United Medical and Health Employees Union, Hareesh, General Secretary, RBIEA, Telangana, Mukund Kulkarni, General Secretary, Retired Sales Promotion Employees Association Telangana (RSPEAT), Gururaj Desai, General Secretary, KSM&SRA greeted the members. Mementos were handed over to all the FTU leaders. The union also celebrated the achievement of highest membership collection

in 2024. The General Secretary and Treasurer placed their reports respectively for discussion by the delegates. I Raju Bhat placed note on Vision 2028. P Krishnanand, President FMRAI greeted the delegates and explained the outcome of FMRAI'S 27th Conference. Gururaj Desai, General Secretary, KSM&SRA and J Venkatesh, Secretary, CITU Telangana State Committee addressed the members. 13 delegates from 12 subunits discussed on the reports and 3 members put forward their valuable suggestions on VISION 2028. Resolutions against Labour Codes, Albert David, Sanofi and Wallace, and demanding for notification of Minimum Wages were adopted unanimously. Resolution appreciating the State Centre for hosting GCM successfully was placed by Ch Bhanu Kiran, General Secretary and seconded by A Nageswara Rao was adopted unanimously. The meeting was attended by 71 delegates from 16 sub units. The GCM concluded with a call to strengthen the councils at sub units and state units as well as to intensify the unified working class movement.



## Resolution on Medicine Related Demands

The 27th Conference of FMRAI being held at Comrade Sitaram Yechury Nagar and Comrade B Vijayan Manch during 13 - 15 February, 2025 at Mumbai resolves as under: The policies of the Modi government have spelled doom for the people of the country as far as the accessibility and affordability of medicines are concerned. On one

hand the medicines under the new DPCO 2013 have been allowed to regularly increase their prices and on the other hand the three slabs of GST charged by the Government also have contributed significantly in rising prices of all medicines in India. The Government has failed to bring medicines in the country under any price control

▶ Turn P 3



**PCMSRU organised its 10th state conference on 16th March, 2025 at Deshbhagat Yadgar hall, Jalandhar. B. S. Sahi, General Secretary, PCMSRU placed the report. Shubrangshu Bhattacharjee, secretary, FMRAI, deliberated in the conference and elaborated on the movements of FMRAI. Shiv Kumar, Vice president, FMRAI also attended the conference. The reports placed by general secretary and treasurer were adopted unanimously. The conference elected new state committee of PCMSRU along with Vinit Sharma as President, Sachin Wadhwa as General Secretary and Rohit Kalra as Treasurer.**



## General Council Meeting of APMSRU

The General Council Meeting of APMSRU was held on 15th and 16th March, 2025 at Sitaram Yechury Nagar (Visakhapatnam). The two days meeting commenced with the flag hoisting by the state unit's President Com. Ch. Kumar followed by paying floral tributes to the martyr's column. The meeting was formally inaugurated by the Chairman of the reception committee Dr. K. Subba Raju, former Additional Director of Medical Education and also addressed by eminent personalities like social activist Com. Aja Sarma, General Secretary of Praja Arogya Vedika Com. T. Kameswara Rao. Leadership from state IMA and FTU's also greeted the General Council members in the meeting.

## Joint meeting on ban on medical representatives at Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), in Manipur

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), in Manipur restricted the entry of Medical Representative at their campus violating the law. "The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954" was enacted and its Rules were made in 1955. The Centre of Medical & Sales Representative Union (CRU) strongly condemned the ban on medical representatives from entering the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) campus. The CRU, along with the Medical and Sales Representative Association of Manipur (MSRAM), organized a meeting at G.M. Hall on the 6th of March, under the slogan "Medical Representatives' Grievances and Its Impact." Thokchom Langamba Meitei CRU

Secretary emphasized that as per the legal provision Medical Representatives have the legal right to promote medicines and brands in hospitals, pharmacies, and to doctors. He also stated that the ban on hospital entry for the Sales Promotion Employees directly impacts the livelihoods of over 1,000 medical representatives in Manipur. Many of the Sales Promotion Employees amongst the participants said about the challenges faced by medical representatives due to the recent restrictions. Key speakers included CRU's former president Ningombam Dilipkumar, AIOCD Joint Secretary Kangjam Sagar Meitei, MCDA Secretary Thokchom Dijamani, MCDA President R.K.

Rakesh CITU Secretary Kshetrimayum Shanta, and CRU's former secretary Oinam Premananda. The CRU has strongly opposed this restriction, calling it an unfair attack on Medical Representatives who rely on access to hospitals for their profession. The CRU has demanded to the RIMS to immediately withdraw the ban order on entry of SPEs in the hospital to promote medicines. CRU also decided if the authorities fail to respond positively, CRU, Manipur Chemist & Druggist Association, All India Organisation of Chemists & Druggists, and Centre of India Trade Union (CITU) will further intensify the democratic protest programme against the hospital authorities.

