

FMRAI NEWS

Organ of Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Association of India

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Reception Committee for FMRAI General Council formed

The General Council Meeting of FMRAI will be held at Vijayawada on and from 7th February, 2024 to 9th February, 2024. The National Working Committee Meeting of FMRAI held at Kolkata in the month of July, 2023 decided to hold the General Council at Vijayawada after concluding the year long Diamond Jubilee celebration through various programmes. The year of 2023 is an eventful year for FMRAI. The General Council meeting held at Guwahati discussed at length about the "Changing working relation & its impact on the fieldworkers" to familiarize the members on the current state of industry and employer employee relation. Accordingly, the yearlong Diamond Jubilee programmes, movements against multifarious attacks by the employers, the task of growing the organization by improving membership are being implemented throughout the country in befitting manner. The ensuing General Council will be very important to assess the implementation of past programmes and chalk out the future programmes up to the next FMRAI Conference. The Reception Committee for FMRAI GCM to be held in the month of February, 2024 has been formed at IMA Hall, Vijayawada with the august presence of eminent Doctors and leaders of Fraternal Trade Unions on 4th November, 2023. C.H. Kumar, President, APMSRU presided over

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■ Demonstration against Wallace in Mumbai by MSMRA

Thunderous protest against Wallace management

Management of Wallace remained adamant in the matter of settling long pending charter of demand for the sales promotion employees. For the past 6 years the company has been undertaking several unfair labour practices with an objective to harass the field workers and deny their legitimate rights. There has been violations of SPE Act, mental torture of the field workers in the name of sales reviews, Victimization on sales ground, not convening Grievance Committee Meeting, and tracking, surveillance and intrusion of data privacy. In this background, as decided, all Sales

Promotion Employees working in Wallace irrespective of divisions and designations resorted to a One Day all India Strike on 27th November, 2023. Prior to the strike, several rounds of preparatory meetings at sub units with all Wallace fieldworkers were held which was attended by large number of fieldworkers. A letter was sent to the management by the fieldworkers, who are adversely affected by the geo tagged reporting. Fieldworkers aptly sent the protest letter and remained committed even after facing threats and intimidation from the management. Detailed assessments were done by all states regarding participation in the strike.

Subunit level council meetings of Wallace were held and demonstrations organised before Wallace establishments on 27th November, 2023 by all the state units. Strike Notices were handed over to the Wallace Management during 15th-25th November, 2023 in the field by the council sub-committee and also during the company meetings across the country. On 27th November, 2023, on the day of strike huge number of Wallace fieldworkers assembled in front of Wallace establishments in different states. MSMSRA organized massive protest in front of the head office establishment with Wallace fieldworkers also joining in the protest.

FMRAI leadership were also present and addressed the members. MPMSRU organized demonstration on strike day at Indore and Satna. KMSRA organized demonstration which was addressed by Ramakrishnan, Vice President of KMSRA. CGSPEU organized demonstration at Raipur on the strike day. UPMSRA also organized demonstration at Lucknow. TNMSRA organized demonstration at Chennai which was addressed by Ramesh Sundar, President of FMRAI and other working committee members. In BSSRU, demonstration was held in front of Wallace

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20th DEC. 2023

NATION-WIDE STRIKE

8 Point Strike Demands

Demands to Central Government

- PROTECT SALES PROMOTION EMPLOYEES (CONDITION OF SERVICES) ACT, 1976
- FRAME STATUTORY WORKING RULES FOR THE SALES PROMOTION EMPLOYEES.
- REMOVE ALL RESTRICTIONS OF ENTRY OF MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES IN GOVT. HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS & ENSURE THEIR RIGHT TO WORK.
- REDUCE PRICES OF MEDICINES & MEDICAL DEVICES & REMOVE GST.
- PROTECT DATA PRIVACY.

Demands to Employers

- STOP SALES RELATED HARASSMENTS & VICTIMIZATION.
- NO INTRUSION IN PRIVACY THROUGH TRACKING & SURVEILLANCE
- ENSURE UNHINDERED ENTRY TO WORKPLACE.

Countrywide Workers' & Farmers' Mahapadav

According to the decision of All India joint convention of Workers and Farmers held at New Delhi, Talkatora Stadium, on 24th August, 2023; Mazdoor Kisan Mahapadav was organised across the country. The said Convention adopted a Declaration to decide the future course of joint and coordinated actions to "Save the People and their Livelihood" from disastrous policies of the central government. In consonance, workers and farmers from across the country launched a three-day Mahapadav from 26th to 28th November, 2023 against anti people, anti



■ Tapan Sen addressing Mahapadav in Kolkata

national policies of BJP-led Central Government. The protest organised jointly by Central trade unions and Samyukta Kisan Morcha gained significant momentum in various states. Workers and farmers demanded the role back of four Labour Codes, more work (200days) under the "MGNREGA", scrapping of Fixed Term Employment, control

price rise, national minimum wage of Rs. 26,000 per month, right to work, right to health, education, housing etc to be made fundamental right. The legal guarantee of procurement of crops at minimum support price (MSP) based on the Swami Nathan Commission's recommendations; withdrawal of Electricity

(Amendment) Bill 2022 were among other demands. Kolkata and Siliguri of West Bengal simultaneously witnessed a massive gathering of workers and farmers during 26- 28th November in 3 days Dharna. Tens of thousands participated in massive showdown of participations observed in "Raj Bhavan Chalo" programme, called by the joint forum of workers' and farmers' unions on the last day of Mahapadav in Kolkata. A large section of WBMSRU members in Kolkata and Siliguri participated in the Mahapadav especially on 28th. Trade union and Peasant leaders

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EDITORIAL

FMRAI strike: Carrying forward the rich legacy

The Trade Unions as we see today are all children of the Industrial revolution of Europe between 1750 and 1850. Indian industries started in mostly Bombay and Calcutta around 1850. The conditions of the workers were deplorable with no working hours, no wage structure, no rules and laws for the workers. Huge numbers of women and children were also employed in these factories. As early as 1877 Indian workers went for strike in the Nagpur Empress Mill, the first workers strike in India. Significant advancement took place with series of strikes all over the country in the last decade of the 1800 demanding fair wage, working time, restricting working for children and women. Strikes by the weavers of Ahmedabad in 1895, in Jute Mills in Calcutta in 1896, by mill workers in Bombay in 1897 and by Press workers in Madras in 1903 wrote histories. By 1900 the workers amalgamated itself with the freedom movement in India. The national leaders took along the workers in industries, realising organized workers would be an asset in freedom movement. The six days' political strike by the workers of Bombay in 1908 against the judgement sentencing Tilak to six years imprisonment, was considered a landmark in our labour movement. After First world war, the consequent economic burden was thrust upon by the industrialists on the workers and as a result series of strikes were organized between 1918 to 1921 across the country. During 1921 alone there were more than 390 strikes involving 6 lakh workers.

In the period of 1918-21 the industrial workers learnt to wage mass struggle over a large area and this led to the formation of a number of good unions. After the second world war there was intense discontent amongst workers and it manifested itself in strikes. While in 1944, the number of disputes was 658, number of workers involved was 5,50,015. The number of stoppages in 1946 and 1947 rose to 1629 and 1811 respectively. The number of workers involved rose to 19,61,948 and 18,40,784.

Today when we have a total anti worker Government and a section of the media and the society continuously trying to paint the striking workers as anti progress, anti growth and anti industry, it is to be remembered that as long as exploitation in economic and working conditions continue, the workers will resort to strikes as a powerful weapon. They are the same class of the valiant workforce that fought for their rights against the British colonial rule.

The first strike by the sales promotion Employees of the country was called by FMRAI in the year 1984. Along with field worker's demands, pro people demands have also been at the forefront of the strike demands. Since then the field workers of the country went for strike twenty four times and a half day marketing Bandh. There have been one day, two days, three days, five days continuous strike by members of FMRAI. Apart from these there have been month long relay strikes all over the country. Members of FMRAI have also participated in numerous strikes and other agitational programmes of the CITU, NPMO and other fraternal organisations.

Prior to 1984, it was unimaginable that the field workers, scattered over the whole country and working under multiple employers would be able to conduct such apex industrial programme. FMRAI has made that unimaginable thing a reality. In the Diamond Jubilee year of the organization the field workers of the country is geared up for the twenty fifth full day strike in pursuance of their demands and for the interest of the common people of the country. The field workers are the proud inheritors of the striking workers who arose to fight the imperialist forces. Now it is time to strike against the progeny of the employers and pro capitalist, anti India forces that is dividing the nation between haves and have nots and send strong message to them.

Strike preparatory programmes in full swing

The preparatory programmes formulated by FMRAI are being vigorously implemented by the state and sub units across the country. Owing to festive season there was a temporary period during which the implementation of preparatory programmes slowed a bit. But with the festivities over, the members are gearing up fast to implement all the preparatory programmes to make the 20th December strike of FMRAI a grand success. Strike notices are submitted to the executives of different companies in the marketplace. GB meetings, conventions are going on across the country to apprise the sales promotion employees about the

demands of the strike. Campaigns are going on to the doctors, chemists and other fraternal organisations and all of them are extending their whole hearted support. Already demand memorandums were submitted to the Union Labour Minister from all the state units and sub units during 18-25 September. In response to the memorandums submitted, the Union Labour ministry without taking any initiative to resolve the demands, passed the responsibility to state labour departments to look after the labour related demands. It is a clear-cut attempt of the Union Government and Union Labour Ministry to dilute the

demands by sending directives to state labour departments to look after the demands placed by FMRAI. The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Services) Act, 1976 is a law framed by the Union Government and it is the Union government only who planned to repeal it. The state governments have no role to address the demand. This deceptive ploy of the anti-worker government must be exposed to all fieldworkers. On 30th November, 2023, strike notice was served to the Prime Minister's Office by the state units and sub units throughout the country. Massive campaign and agitation is in the offing for the Union Government

The strike programme schedule for December

- 1-10th December, 2023: Hold joint meetings at State level with IMA, C&D associations. FTUs to form strike committees. Widen campaign amongst doctors, chemists, members, non-members and general public on the demands of the strike.
- 11-13th December, 2023: submission of Strike Notice to PMO through the office of Chief Secretary of the state / State Labour Commissioner and Day Long Dharna at State capital before the respective offices by the state units.
- 10-20th December, 2023: Street corner, public meetings, rallies at prominent places at subunits for campaigning the demands of the strike. Postering, flex displaying strike demands to be organized in subunits during this period.
- 18 - 19 December, 2023: Press Meets at state capitals.
- 13-20 December, 2023: Badge wearing by the SPEs during fieldwork and on the Strike Day.
- 20th December, 2023: Picketing points to be organized and campaign programme to be done in all sub units. Ensure complete success of 24 hour strike of the sales promotion employees. State units to organize rally / mass meeting at prominent places.

...General Council

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the occasion and U.V. Krishnaiah, General Secretary, APMSRU briefed the participants on the struggles and movements of FMRAI. Ramesh Sundar, President, and K. Sunil Kumar Jt. General Secretary, FMRAI attended the meeting. Reception committee was formed with Dr. A. Purnanand, an eminent cardiologist of Vijaywada as Chairman, U.V. Krishnaiah as Organizing Secretary, C.H. Kumar as General Council Co-ordinator and Dumpala Prasad as Organizing Treasurer. Other eminent doctors expressed to support. The leadership from CITU, LIC, APEU, AIDWA, ASHA, BEFI were present during the formation meeting and expressed their full support for organizing the General Council Meeting. The reception committee for 39th State Conference of APMSRU was also formed on that day which will be held after the General Council.

Other Industry: tasks taken

Meeting of Other Industries sub-committee was held on 8th November'23 with the agenda on membership, All India strike and future tasks which was attended by conveners from 12 states. Review of membership took place with a projection to conclude renewal by November'23. Sub unit core committee will drive for new membership campaign with leaf-

let in market within the said timeline. Core committee will assess renewal position and conduct meeting with sub unit O.I. conveners. State units/ sub units are directed to intervene in the issues of O.I. field workers with their respective employers. Agendas of the strike must be campaigned among workers of this industry organising small meetings at the market areas.

...Mahapadav

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like Tapan Sen and Hannan Mollah along with others addressed the massive gathering of workers and farmers. Leadership warned the Government to fulfill all the demands raised by the workers and farmers and gave clarion call to expose the Corporate-Communal nexus in Governance and oust them in upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha polls. At Eco Garden of Lucknow on 26, 27 and 28 November 2023 protest programme

was also organised. UPMSRA organised a Medical Camp. Many central and state leaders of different trade unions and federations participated. They all explained the grim situation of workers and peasants of the country. They also denounced this situation and observed that it can't be reversed until the change of present Central Government. Similar programmes were organised in several states where members of FMRAI participated in large numbers.

Obituary

Basudev Acharya

A 9 time MP from Purulia/Bankura, and one of the tallest left leader for the workers of the country, since 1982-2014 passed away on 13th November, 2023 after a prolonged ailment at a hospital in Hyderabad at the age of 82.

A man of principle who adopted a simple and frugal lifestyle, Acharya worked for the toiling section of the populace till his last breath. Apart from serving the mass in general as an accomplished Parliamentarian, he played a frontline role in the movement of trade union in CITU. During the tenure of being a Member of Parliament he contributed actively for the welfare of the working class and fulfilled his role in most efficient manner as Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee of Railways along with others of the committee, who opposed firmly the privatization in the sector. He was involved in and guided various movements of FMRAI. We pay homage to the departed leader who devoted his entire life for the toiling masses.

Indranil Chowdhury



Former State Committee member of WBMSRU and former Secretary of

Murshidabad District, who was working in Win Medicare has passed away untimely on 27th of November, 2023 after ailment of prolonged period of time from Cancer. He left his wife and his son. FMRAI conveys heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

...Wallace

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lace establishments. CRU organized massive demonstration at Guwahati. In West Bengal, more than 120 Wallace fieldworkers started demonstrating from the morning which was further intensified by huge number of WBMSRU members participating later. In all places good number of unorganized section of Wallace other division field workers participated from the front. The field workers are committed to continue the struggle further for their rights.

Timeline of FMRAI strikes

No.	Year	Date
1	1984	5th April ■ First strike of FMRAI
2	1985	25th March
3	1988	5th May
5	1990	5th June
6	1993	20th to 21st April ■ First two days strike
7	1995	20th June ■ Against Amendment of Indian Patent Act, 1970
8	1996	19th to 21st March ■ 19th Strike in Maharashtra and Karnataka ■ 20th All states except Maharashtra, Karnataka and AP ■ 21st Strike in AP only
9	1998	2nd to 4th April ■ First 3 days strike
❖	1999	19th May ■ ½ day marketing Bandh
10	2000	7th January ■ Strike in the beginning of Millenium
11	2001	8th to 12th January ■ Five days continuous strike
12	2002	9th April to 8th May ■ Month long relay strike. Each state did strike for 3 days
13	2003	8th May to 25th June ■ Two months long relay strike
14	2004	2nd December ■ 5 companies strike
15	2005	14th December
16	2008	24th April
17	2010	17th to 18th August
18	2011	17th August
19	2012	23rd August
20	2012	4th December
21	2015	16th December
22	2017	3rd February
23	2020	8th January
24	2022	19th January
25	2023	20th December

Waves of strikes among health care professionals across the globe

More than 75,000 union members including the nurses, nursing assistants, technicians, pharmacists, and other health care workers at Kaiser Permanente (one of the biggest Healthcare provider in US, spreading accross 8 states & Districts with 24000 Doctors, 68000 Nurses, 213000 other staffs including Technicians & front line Workers), went on strike in California in October over a week. It has been hailed as the largest health care strike in recent U.S. history. It is indeed unusual for American medical workers to go on strike. Lives are, after all, in their hands, raising the stakes of any walkout. But health care strikes are more common in other countries, and there is reason to believe Kaiser is on the leading edge of more labor unrest among care providers in this country. Kaiser workers argue that the low pay and benefits, lack of adequate training, and poor working conditions that led them to strike are also putting patients

at risk. Health workers' unions have said that strikes like this can help improve patient care by addressing persistent staffing shortages. They say the better benefits and pay they are arguing for will encourage other workers to fill open positions and stay in their jobs longer. It is nevertheless a relatively new phenomenon for the U.S. medical workforce to demand better working conditions for themselves along with better care for their patients. Kaiser's nurses, techs, and pharmacists are, for now, outliers. But they may be showing the way for the people who make up the rest of the vast American health care sector to take a stand for their needs and values. In Becker's Hospital chain, Healthcare Workers are on war path; went for Walk off the Jobs, resorted 27 Strikes in 2023 itself, demanding better Patient Care, against Lesser Staffing, improved Working conditions & Employee retention. In UK very recently in 3rd week of November Consultant Doctors'

union under British Medical Association had undertaken 4 rounds of Industrial Action since June'23 against National Health Services, resorted to 3days Strike in October & achieved their demand of better Wage revision & understaffing causing deteriorated working conditions. Nursing staffs were on agitational path since last year demanding parity with inflammatory market condition for better service conditions in the NHS. In Scotland 40000 Nurses resorted to Strike in 2022 along with other General demands raised by the TUs for revision of Service Conditions against high trajectory of inflation. In Germany 25000 Nurses had been to Strikes in 2022. In France in June 2023 Healthcare Workers resorted to Strike. In Spain at Madrid 20000 Doctors & Nurses participated in Strike in May 2022. In New Zealand 10000 Nurses resorted to Work Slowdowns & Strikes in 2022. In Australia Nurses in New South Wales jumped into Strikes twice demanding better working & service conditions for themselves.

SUN management continues to attack their workers

Sun management is trying to impose all sorts of unilateral work load on organized field workers. from reporting portal to digital format filling without discussion with Progressive Committee and bypassing written agreement forcing the PSRs to accept the same. With the intention of dismantling the union in the company; management is putting enormous pressure on the unionised SPEs. They are offering lucrative allurements for leaving union. Some of the betrayers succumbed but a good number of field workers are fighting against the attack. Management squeezed existing rights, issued threat letters, changed working territory of the PSR including PC members, but all India council took up all issues, and protested against it. Council strongly opposed new reporting system and unilateral digital activities. The PC pursued the pending COD and rejected the performance-based increment. Company illegally stopped salary for those who were not complying with their unilateral system, they were not called for company meetings also and denied VDA to these workers from April 23. Every PSR sent protest letter to the management to release all dues and FMRAI took up industrial action against Sun Pharma. Deputation team went to meet management during cycle meetings in three zones, after which management released September salary but October is still pending. FMRAI explored legal corridors for COD and transfer issues and organised demonstrations in front of the company establishment. As existing practice, FMRAI is always open for negotiation with management, but there will be no compromise in rights for the workers. FMRAI has further called for more consolidation of all Sun Pharma field workers at subunit level to stop deterioration of working condition and atrocities of the management.

Pharma MNCs: Profiteering motives threaten jobs

In continuation of Economic slump all over the World in post covid era big MNC Pharmaceutical houses desperate to maintain their profitability, have started rejigging their organisational structures by downsizing the manpower, which they are only taught to sustain their presence in World market rather not for better utilisation of manpower for sustainable growth. In India we are experiencing a trend of withdrawals of business through direct marketing & withdrawals of production units of their products by the MNCs in last one year. The myth of their high Code of Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibilities to serve the mankind has busted. MNCs global strategies have caused such decisions of withdrawal of marketing from lesser profiteering countries like ours, as MNCs in India are facing stiffer competitions from Indian Pharmaceutical houses in marketing

of off-patented drugs. They are not having any exclusive rights product which can garner big profits for them from Indian market. Continuous movement from FMRAI through vigorous struggle over decades (including Strikes by our members) have put the Union govt of India under duress as FMRAI exposed the impasse attitude of the Government in rectifying their faulty Drug Price Control mechanism & nexus to loot common people by marketing overpriced Medicines which compelled the Ministry of Fertilizer & Petrochemical to bring more & more generic molecules into DPCO. This have further declined their astronomical profit margins which led MNCs reluctant to continue their operation in our country where people are grappling with unemployment, no money beyond the expenses incurred to sustain livelihoods. The Out-of-Pocket expenses for buying medicines in India, despite being

a poor country, is one of the highest. MNCs motto is simple, more & more unbridled profits with no botheration for the health care benefits of the common people of the country. New technique has been adopted by Pharmaceutical MNCs now, phasing out mainstream marketing & placing the popular Brands in OTC segment so that DPCO doesn't imply on selling their products, for maximisation of their revenues. The shield FMRAI has been able to generate after 15 amendments in the 2005 Patent Bill through vigorous persuasions at that time has lessened the scope to exploit Indian market by various ways & means by the MNCs. The so called claim of being "Saviors of Mankind" as propagated by big capitals as having the capacities to bring new molecules through R&D is exposed to the bones as hollow and unsustainable. Now MNCs are keen in doing business by introducing Biological Medicines,

Oncology products which are having exclusive marketing rights & can serve their interest with lesser workforce in hybrid model to cater the upper crust of the Society where price control can't be the hindrance to sell their products. Astra withdraws marketing of off-patented low margin profit division, GSK already launched VRS, Pfizer is further downsizing their workforce & now Sanofi, who are in the process to bifurcate their Pharmaceutical business in India as Global plan. It is apprehended that Sanofi will follow same path & place one segment of Medicines in OTC category where downsizing of human resources is their ulterior motive. The members of FMRAI has to be vigilant. Long and arduous path of struggle against the onslaught of MNCs in addition to the policies of the present government which is helping the MNCs is the need of the day.

Pfizer faces protests against illegal terminations

Pfizer management called company's annual plan of action meeting (POA) from 29th November to 1st December 2023, at Jaipur for the Sales Promotion Employees working across all division and designation of the company.

Unionised field workers of Pfizer have gone for protest before their management during the Company's Conference at the call of FMRAI, held at Jaipur on issues of illegal terminations of the SPEs' and non implementations of the two interim orders given by the MRTU & PULP Court, Maharashtra in favour of the victimised sales promotion employees. On 29th November 2023 from 9.00 A.M. to 8.00 P.M. retrenched field workers staged dharna in front of Hotel Novotel, the meeting venue. The field workers staged demonstrations showing their anger with demand placards and banner while their management were entering the hotel venue. Inside the meeting, the PSR, those who are in payroll, raised their voice before their management and boycotted prize distribution ceremony



■ Terminated Pfizer field workers protesting against management in Jaipur, Rajasthan

and gala dinner offered by the management. Management tried to foil the dharna program by instructing hotel management not to allow the program outside the hotel premises. But workers courageously fought and continued with the demonstration. Ultimately, hotel management went back from their agenda, and the dharna program continued. At 8.00 P.M. all the unionized field workers met outside the hotel, and a gate meeting was held. Council leaders of Pfizer and FMRAI addressed the members, and all the unionized PSR's took dinner together at Jaipur outside

the meeting venue.

On 30th November 2023, RMSRU members, along with retrenched field workers, staged demonstration before the Pfizer management outside the hotel. Local police did not allow the gathering and delegation because of Section 144 imposed due to election proceedings. Local units, along with members, discussed the demands with the police and submitted the memorandum to the administration. The program was continued till 3 PM. Inside the meeting unionized PSR's raised their voice and protested before HR, Category Lead, and

demanding to resolve the termination issues bilaterally with the Welfare Committee. Initially, management was adamant about discussing the issue, but due to pressure both from inside and outside, management, announced calling of the grievance committee meeting on 15th December 2023. Against connivance between the police/bouncers and Pfizer management on 30th November, and deliberately trying to suppress our movement, demonstration program was organised on 1st December 2023 before the C & F of the Pfizer as a mark of protest.

Mighty protest against Alkem

Alkem is one of the leading pharmaceutical company of the country operating through more than six thousand sales promotion employees working in various divisions. It is because of the sheer contribution of the fieldworkers Alkem could establish many of their brands as leading brands in the Indian Pharmaceutical market. But that contribution nowadays has very little importance as the fieldworkers are subjected to threat, harassment and humiliation for generating more and more profit for the employer. Such is the atrocities of the Alkem management, that this leading company is having very high attrition rate among the fieldworkers. In recent times the pressure exerted by the management of this company to ensure certain value sales in headquarters by any means whatsoever has a telling impact on the fieldworkers. Fieldworkers working in this company are

getting victimized by termination, motivated transfers, harassment in the name of review meeting etc. The all India Council Meeting of Alkem was held in recent past assessed the situation and decided to organize fieldworkers to register protest against all atrocities of the management. Accordingly series of programmes were designed. On 28th November, 2023, demonstration was organized by KMSRA at Ernakulam which was addressed by KMSRA state leadership. On the next day, i.e. on 29.11.2023 massive demonstration was organized by WBMSRU in front of Alkem office at Kolkata which was attended by large number of Alkem fieldworkers along with huge gathering by WBMSRU members. The leadership of WBMSRU along with the FMRAI Working Committee Members based at Kolkata addressed the members and a deputation met the management with the demand to resolve all grievances.



■ Demonstration against Alkem in Kolkata

Reception committee for TMSRU Conference

Telangana Medical and Sales Representatives' Union organised their 5th state Conference Reception Committee formation meeting at Karimnagar on 5th November at TMSRU Bhavan.

TMSRU 5th Conference will be held on 9th & 10th March, 2024 at Karimnagar as it was decided in the last state committee meeting. In present industrial situation it is very important to consolidate the SPEs' under the banner of FMRAI in every state and the state conferences serves a fertile platform for such activities- with this call 5th TMSRU conference will be held next year. So on 5th November, 2023, the journey started with the Reception Committee formation meeting. This formation meeting was presided by



J.L. Narsimha Reddy, Subunit President and I. Raju Bhat, TMSRU General Secretary, who addressed and elaborated the impact of present political situation on working class and the need of consolidating the workers to combat with it and working class' responsibilities in forth coming assembly elections in Telangana to get back a better industrial environment for themselves. He suggested Karimnagar Subunit members to campaign amongst

members and all other SPEs. He also emphasized to campaign to the common people on the medicine related demands. G. Vidya Sagar, State Vice President, A. Sadananda Chary, State Secretary, G. Srinivas, SWC member also were present in the meeting. They also deliberated on the occasion and gave their valuable suggestions to make the conference successful. A. Ramesh CITU District Secretary, Geetla Mukund Reddy, CITU District President,

Rajesham, CITU Treasurer, promised to extended full support for the upcoming conference. Vaman Rao, Insurance Corporation Employees Union, G. Srikanth, SFI District President, Aravind, SFI District Secretary, Pooja, SFI State Girls Convenor, Naresh, Thirupathi Nayak, DYFI, Punnam Ravi, All India Road and Transport Association, Rama Raju, Jana Vignana Vedika, T. Suresh, KVPS District Secretary and other FTU functionaries greeted the members and extended whole hearted support for the success of Conference. M. Anjaiah, Organising Secretary proposed the Reception Committee members including K. Venkateshwaralu as Treasurer. G. Srinivas SWC Member placed vote of thanks.

Protest against Himalaya

The atrocities of the Himalaya Wellness management were aptly protested by the FMRAI members across different states of the country. This management closed down the operations of Zeus division in most malafide manner leaving nearly 100 fieldworkers and their families in starving state. Subsequently management faced series of protest programmes from the fieldworkers in most courageous manner. The management instead of resolving the just demands of the fieldworkers victimized the council leadership who were protesting in most courageous manner. Protesting

all unjust actions of the management demonstrations were organized at various places in front of Himalaya establishments. On 22nd November, 2023, KMSRA organized demonstration at Ernakulam which was addressed by Thomas Mathew, Working Committee member of FMRAI. MPMSRU organized demonstration in front of C&F of Himalaya at Jabalpur. CGSPEU organized demonstration at Raipur. Lucknow unit of UPMSRA organized demonstration on 22nd November, 2023. BSSRU organized demonstration at Ranchi. WBMSRU organized demonstration at Kolkata office of Himalaya.