

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

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FMRAI GCM at Mysuru



Flag hoisting

FMRAI GCM commenced with the hoisting of the FMRAI flag by the president of the organization, Ramesh Sundar



on 14 February, 2020 followed by floral tributes to the martyrs' column by the leadership of FMRAI, A. K. Padmanabhan, Vice President, CITU, leaders from fraternal trade unions and

other eminent dignitaries and personalities.

The inaugural session was held at Mysuru Medical College Alumni Association Auditorium, J K Grounds, Mysuru. After the formal proceedings, the Inaugural Session started with the welcome address of the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem. He briefed regarding the historical importance of Mysuru and its relevance in the present context. The GCM was inaugurated with the speech of A. K. Padmanabhan, Vice President, CITU. He explained the significance of General Strike(8th January, 2020) and its large impact across the country. He elaborated on the pro-corporate role of the Central Government and its desperate course of derogatory labour reforms that attempts to take away the hard-earned rights of the working class . He lambasted the divisive politics of the BJP led NDA Government in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), nationwide preparation for

Inaugural session

making National Register of Citizens (NRC) followed by the work of preparing the National Population Register(NPR) . He further highlighted about the anti-people budget for 2020-21

placed in the parliament which proposes to sell out the public sector companies and attempts to jeopardize the national sovereignty and integrity. Hon'ble justice H. N. Nagamohan Das, retired Judge of High Court of Karnataka was the guest speaker and addressed the gathering with his mesmerizing deliberation. He highlighted that the rights of the people of this country, including the democratic rights, have been bestowed by our Constitution and it cannot be taken away in any pretext. He criticized that the law of sedition is being used rampantly to suppress the legitimate voice of the citizens. He emphasized that the law of sedition was introduced by the colonial rulers in India to suppress freedom movement. This sedition law undermines democratic values enshrined in the constitution. Therefore, the Constitution will be safe only if these colonial laws are done away with, he pointed out. He underscored the immense significance of the Indian constitution and gave clarion call for protecting it and for protecting its core values. L. M. Peshwa, Organizing Secretary, concluded the inaugural session with vote of thanks. The leaders and the guests were felicitated during the session.

Business session

The General Council Meeting (GCM) of FMRAI was held at Mysuru in the period between 14th and 16th February, 2020. On the occasion of this GCM the city of Mysuru was christened after the name of Mohammed Amin legendary leader of the trade union, former general secretary, All India CITU and the leader democratic movement in the country. The stage (Manch) was named after R P Singh, the Vice President and the beloved leader of FMRAI who departed shortly before the GCM. The main entrance of the venue was named after R Srinivas, Vice President of Karnataka state CITU. On 1th February, 2020, after flag hoisting, payment of tribute to the martyrs and inaugural session, the business session started post lunch. For conducting the business session of the GCM, presidium, steering committee, registration and credential committee, resolution committee and minutes-committee were constituted. The

presidium consisted of the President and the vice presidents of FMRAI while the rest of the office bearers made the steering committee. The GCM adopted the condolence resolution and observed silence in mark of respect of those who departed in the intervening period (after 25th Conference at Patna)

At the beginning the business session ratified incorporation the new names in the list of GCM and also expunged some names for different reasons. The presidential address was made by Ramesh Sundar , President. The perspective of the GCM was made clear in his address. He explained the national and international situation and appealed to the GCM for deciding the future course of struggle in the given political and economic circumstances prevailing at the time of the GCM. General Secretary's report was placed by Santanu Chatterjee, the General Secretary and the Treasurer's report was placed by Partha Rakshit, the Treasurer. ▶ To Page 4

Obituary

R. P. Singh



R P Singh, Rajendra Pratap Singh, Vice President of FMRAI, sometimes fondly called as RP, breathed his last on 4th February, 2020 at his home in Lucknow at the age of 59 years. His death is a huge loss for FMRAI. FMRAI grieves his sudden death and conveys condolence to his family, friends and all his comrade-in-arms. R P Singh continued to serve the organization in his earnest till the last day of his life. In immediate past he was engaged in organizing the field workers movement in North western states of the country and in

Jammu and Kashmir. Several matters related to the demands of field workers movement, were being pursued and followed up by him at relevant central ministries in Delhi in co-ordination with the CITU centre there. He handled several legal matter and issues with great dexterity. He stated his career at Albert David at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, he joined Rallies with Sitapur as headquarter. Incidental to his involved trade union activities he was victimized in 1996 and continued his struggle. During this period he worked wholeheartedly for organizing the field workers and building the movement and organization. Later on, he devoted whole time for the organization, became whole-timer and devoted in organizing the field workers in the northern states of the country. In 20th conference of FMRAI in Hyderabad in 2004 he was elected as a secretary of FMRAI and continued to serve organization in the capacity of an office bearer of FMRAI till his death. In 25th conference at Patna in 2019 he was elected as vice president of FMRAI. R P Singh was deeply involved in the democratic and progressive movements in the state of Uttar Pradesh . he pated active role in people health movement in the country and represented FMRAI in many occasions(including People's Health Assembly, Dhaka in 2018) in connection with the movement on the medicine and health related demands of the field workers

All India Women's convention at Mysuru

Women convention was held at the venue of the GCM at Mysuru on 15th February, 2020. Sixty-five women delegates from six state units, namely, WBMSRU, BSSRU, MSMRA, TMSRU, KMSRA, KSM&SRA, from across the country attended the convention. Besides women comrades leadership of DSMRO, CRU, APMSRU, UPMSRA, MPMSRU attended the convention. Ramesh Sundar, President, FMRAI inaugurated the convention. Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary, greeted the participants of the convention and emphasized the urgent need of organizing the women field workers across the country. A report enumerating the specific and general demands of the women field workers and reiterating the impending tasks was FMRAI placed by Arpita Mitra Roy. Highest participation was recorded from KMSRU(46).Eleven women comrades discussed on report. Fifteen-member All India ▶ To Page 3

Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI)
ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONVENTION
15th February 2020, Mysuru



People suffer, but corporations gain concessions

'Before one can talk about anything else one must provide the normal essentials of life to human beings. That is where economics comes in' observed Jawaharlal Nehru, in his Speech at Indian Council for Cultural Relations in New Delhi on April 9, 1950 (Jawaharlal Nehru's Speeches, 1949-1953, Vol-2, page 361). This observation on economics stands on its own feet and it is relevant today, especially in the days of the economic slowdown in the country.

Obviously, the starting point of economy is not the profit motive of the corporations but the provision of 'normal essentials of life'. Today, the common people, including the field workers, are made to believe that it is the market condition and profit 'return on investment' that should prevail over all other issues. Awkwardly enough, lives of the field workers are being linked to market condition. The declining economic activity at a time of economic slowdown have direct bearing on the company's per capita sales budget fixed on the head of each of the field workers. The fulfillment of company's aspirational budget, the hypothetical sales target, does not depend very much on the natural power of the field workers, but on the bizarre condition of the market. But the employers of the sales promotion industry decide the size of the wage, annual increment or 'viability' of a territory, only on the arbitrary measure of the sales.

Not just field workers, the current economic slowdown make its impact known to every section of the people. Therefore, it was expected that the Union Budget 2020 of India which was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1st of February, 2020 will offer some remedy for the ongoing malady. Does it really do this? This budget, like any other, is a financial plan that devices where the money will come from and where these money will be spent. In the history of budget in India, the budget plan more or less matched with the final and actual income and expenditure of the government in a financial year. But, during rule of successive NDA governments these figures do not match. Nearly in every financial year these governments fails in planned mobilization of resources and therefore make cut in expenditure and change the expenditure priorities (amounting cut on the essentials of the people) during the course of the year.

For example, Gross tax revenue for 2018-19 had also fallen short of the target. The actual gross tax revenue had been Rs 20.8 lakh crores, as against the estimate of Rs 22.7 lakh crores. In 2019-20 again it is estimated to fall by Rs. 2 lakh crores. Then the fiscal deficit (expenditure over income) figure also increases from budgeted 3.3% to 4% of Gross Domestic Product (scroll.in, 21/10/19). In 2019 the finance minister announced cut in corporate tax rate from 35% to 22%. This has led to revenue loss of around Rs. 1.56 lakh crores. Therefore, actual tax revenue collection in

2019-20 may fall very much beyond 2 lakh crores. Similarly, as per data presented in parliament in December, 2019, the Central GST collection had fallen short of the budget estimate by nearly 40 per cent during the April-November, 2019-20 (Business Standard, 10/12/19). Therefore, the budget figures of our finance minister are extravagant and unrealistic even if these figures look very beautiful in appearance.

Many eminent economists felt that the government should put more money, either directly or indirectly, in the hands of the common people. The workers in the organized and unorganized industries, workers in the informal sector, the contract workers, the agricultural labourers, the rural poor and the urban poor should be provided with enough of earning (resulting purchasing power) to increase overall demand in the economy. It is sure that corporate tax cut will not revive economy. Emphasizing that the government should plan for providing income and earnings for the common people, Nobel winning economist Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee stated in a recent interview that 'Corporate India is sitting on a bunch of cash. They are not investing because there is no demand. Corporate India will take any tax cut you offer them. They will never say no. ... But if you really want to revive their investment, you have to get the other side up'. (India today, 31/01/20)

The intended result of corporate tax cut is revival of economy, but in fact it is producing the opposite result and further burdening the economy by reducing the revenue collection and also the cutting essential expenditure. Still the government takes the same path. In the current budget Rs.40000 crores of income tax concessions and Rs.25000 dividend tax concessions has been declared. This concession results into shortfall in allocation in MGNREGA, agriculture, rural development and women and child development.

The current budget makes allocation of just Rs.61500 crores in MGNREGA which is even less than the expenditure in the last two years (In MGNREGA Rs.61815 crores and Rs.71002 crores were spent respectively in 2018-19 and in 2019-20). Had this Rs. 65000 crores of tax concession not been given and had this amount been allocated for MGNREGA, then 359 crore 11 lakh 60 thousand man-days would have been created (considering average MGNREGA wage as Rs.181 per day per worker). That means more than 3 Crore 59 lakhs MGNREGA workers would have got legally-entitled 100 days of work in the current financial year. This money would have reached the hands of the poorest of the poor in the economy and would have enabled them with the similar amount of purchasing power and thereby would have created Rs.61500 crores of demand in the economy. Overall, the employment situation is very grim. In the

background of unchecked price rise, real wages of the workers have declined enormously. The budget does not give any hope in creation of employment, containment of price rise or increase in wages. This has led to sharp reduction in per capita consumption. These are the deep ailments of the economy that virulently attacks the common people and the field workers alike. But, the budget has no answer to give to these difficult questions.

If government cannot contain price rise even during an economic slowdown then it should ensure corresponding increase in wage. If corresponding increase in wage not executed, then the government should subsidize cost of living. But government gives subsidy to the corporates while food subsidies are reduced. The current budget provides just Rs.108688 crores as against Rs.184220 crores in 2019-20 which is 40% lower. Thus, the three main themes of the budget 2020, namely 'aspirational India', 'economic development' and 'caring society' did not address the vital national issues like employment, wage or price rise.

This budget has made reduction in the defense budget (external security) from 16.1 to 15.5 % (as percentage of total budgeted expenditure) and an increase in the internal security (home ministry) budget from 4.5% to 5.3% as compared to 2019-20. Decline in revenue collection will cut in budgeted expenditure in education, health, food security, welfare programmes, infrastructure development and unlikely to affect expenditure of the ministry of Defence or that of Home ministry. In this context '... what is significant ... is the increase in allocation for internal security (home affairs) and a reduction in the external one (Defence). That problem has clearly to do with increasing internal conflicts and unrest that we all see in the country, by a politics of hate and bigotry setting people against people. No more needs to be said on the budgetary implications of divisive, as against cohesive, politics' writes K P Kannan (EPW, 29 Feb, 2020).

In view of shortfall in revenue collection, budget goes with the plan of massive privatization and announces privatization and wholesale sell out of national properties like the public sectors companies including the famous and efficient navaratna (nine gems) central public sector enterprises. Government wants to sell out public sector oil companies, shipping, aviation and all other companies only for some temporary fiscal gain causing long term damage to the health of the economy and the wealth of the nation. They want to sell out even the LIC, the world-famous and very creditable and credible insurance company. Even the legendary Indian Railways is being privatized bit by bit. Now, they want to sell out even the public services and announce that the government will hand over district government hospitals to private healthcare corporations. Education has already been made attractive

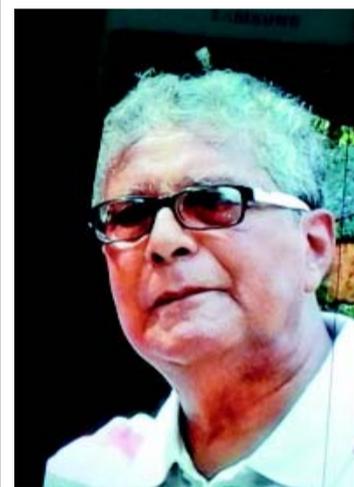
centres of commerce and business. Now, the people's healthcare will be the latest victim. But, in all industrialized nations, from whom our rulers take the cue, governments spends huge amount of money in healthcare and primary education.

Economic Survey 2020, as placed by finance minister in parliament, employed huge energy in collecting the prices of Thali (single-serve one plate meal) across the country and revealed, with the zeal of scientific discovery, that the Thali prices are very much affordable for the workers. This 'Thalinomics' ignored the rising prices of all food items and cooking material and diverted attention from real issues that ails the economy.

Thus goes the gory story of budget 2020. Instead of directly taxing a few wealthy individuals and the big private enterprises and corporations, government is collecting large indirect taxes from medicines, petrol-diesel-cooking gas and all other essential commodities and also selling out national properties to meet the regular expenses of the government.

This budget is indeed a betrayal to the people who voted this government back to power. This mockery of 'Thalinomics' cracks cruel joke with the people in distress. The budget takes away the peace from the marketplace, from the face of the workers and from the neighborhood of common household. Faces are full of tears not only because of economic denial but also for political anarchy and riots that entails such policies and politics. Political anarchy injures the economy and fills the nation with poisonous speeches, hatred and disharmony. Economic misery of the people combined with an air of mistrust and hate, makes an explosive cocktail. People realize this, so does the working class and field workers' movement. People, especially a remarkable number of young men and women, are coming down to streets, cultivating the true spirit of the constitution and challenging this anarchy and divisive politics. This cultivation will not go in vain, but will bring, today or tomorrow, good harvest for the whole people of this country.

Obituary



Tirthankar Roy

Tirthankar Roy, former General Secretary of CRU passed away on 19.2.2020. He was 71 years of age. He started his career with Franco Indian at Guwahati headquarter. The field workers of entire North East were his admirer because of his comradeship in real sense of term. At Dibrugarh conference in April 1979, he was elected as General Secretary of the then CRU (NEC). Tirthankar Roy always strengthened the union and upheld the banner of unity of the organization at a very multiethnic, multi-religious,

multicultural region where keeping unity among the people was ever a challenge. With his leadership through collective functioning in CRU, organization and movement of the field workers had grown significantly since then which was evident from growth in membership and from increased trade union activities.

Tirthankar Roy served as General Secretary till May, 1986 (Agartala conference). Subsequently, he was transferred to Malda, West Bengal.

At Malda, with his pleasing personality, undiminished smile and attachment to the organization he got deeply involved with the issues and problems of the field workers and served the organization to the best of his ability there in WBMSRU. He had the resolute conviction in left ideology and got closely associated with the movement and organizations of the people there. In his own company, Franco Indian, he fought a principled battle against the disrupters within council movement, defended the organization and succeeded. He was elected as the state committee member of WBMSRU. FMRAI expresses heartfelt condolence for the sad demise of Tirthankar Roy.

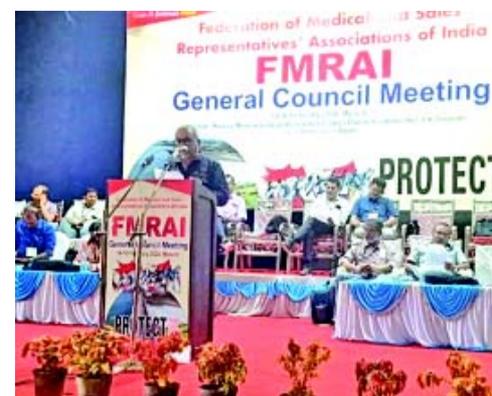
Ankit Thakur

Ankit Thakur, member of Chhindwara unit of MPMSRU, employed in DWD, passed away on 26th February, 2020, in a road accident while returning from Seoni after sales closing. His bike collided with a truck and he succumbed to his head injuries. Earlier, he also lost his younger brother in an accident after which he was the only child left to his parents. He was just 23 years old and have only eleven months' career in DWD. He was working under severe and continuous sales pressure put on him by the Management of DWD. Chhindwara unit and



DWD Council of MPMSRU demanded compensation for the bereaved family.

GCM Resolution



Sanjeev Khandewal : CAA, NRC



Pranab Roy : newer forms of attack



K. Sunil Kumar : Labour reforms



S. Bhattacharya : unethical marketing

Resolution against Citizenship Amendment Act

The General Council meeting of Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India held at Mysuru between 14th Feb 2020 and 16th Feb 2020 resolves as under:

This meeting urge repealing of CA Act; condemns brutal attack on protesters

The Central government amidst strong protest in the Parliament had passed Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) to keep away a section of people living in India by stripping their right as citizen. They have imposed religious criteria in considering certain sections of people violating provisions of our Constitution.

Such discrimination was created to cover up their lapses found in imposition of National Register of Citizenship in Assam and to advance their communal agenda throughout the country. Nineteen Lakh of people in Assam has been removed from the register declaring them as outsiders in India and confined thousands in detention camps where living conditions are inhuman and people are facing death due to lack of health care.

The CAA also overturned the carefully balanced agreement arrived in 1985 through Assam Accord. Similar imposition is now being planned in other states where detention camps are being ordered to construct where the workers and particularly migrant workers will be the

worse sufferer.

This ill afford of BJP Govt. has caused wide spread protest in all over the country when few persons were killed in police firing in Assam, U.P. etc. Students and other people were brutally attacked by police and goons in JNU, AMU, Jamia Millia University, etc. injuring many, also en mass arresting peaceful protesters. Even sanctity of these institutions was breached by police who never bothered to ask permission from the Vice Chancellors. This meeting anxiously observe that the BJP Govt. is creating discrimination which may create division in the country and may cause widespread discontent among people irrespective of religion, caste and creeds. This is also being used to deviate attention from the present crisis and to create divide among the unified protest of the working people against the anti people policies of the BJP Govt.

This meeting demands: The Govt. to repeal CAA, not proceed with NRC and stop police atrocities on the protesters.

We call upon all affiliated state units to organise wide campaign among the members to participate in the protest action programmes of Trade unions. We also appeal to our constituents to participate in CITU programme on 23rd March 2020 (Shaheed Bhagat Singh death anniversary).

Resolution against amendment of labour laws

General Council Meeting of the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India, held at Mysore from 14th to 16th February, 2020, condemns the BJP led NDA Government for bringing anti-labour amendments in Industrial Disputes Act, Factories Act, Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act and other labour laws by replacing them with four labour codes. In the name of restructuring and simplification, these changes are designed to ensure labour flexibility which will result in severe exploitation of the workers by the employers and the capitalists. Also, the social security of workers will be put at stake. The present Central government has gone ahead in an arbitrary manner in amending existing Labour Laws, without proper discussion with the Central Trade Unions.

The Central Government's decision to amend labour laws in the name of four labour codes is to empower the employers to freely exploit the workers including retrenchment in overwhelming majority of the industrial establishments in the country. The Code on Wages subsuming four labour acts is already enacted by the parliament and rules are also framed and there are many serious concerns on the issues of minimum wages, payment of wages and bonus.

The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions bill is introduced in the Parliament and proposes to repeal SPE Act, 1976 along with 12 other craft enactments. Repealing SPE Act has serious impact on the sales promotion employees; even the parliamentary standing committee has not given much cognizance to our pleadings.

Code on Social Security bill is introduced in parliament and is mainly designed to dismantle the well functioning social security schemes like Provident Fund, ESI, etc. There is every possibility of misuse of huge corpus developed by the contributions of the hard earned money of toiling workers. Code on Industrial Relations bill is introduced in the parliament subsuming I.D. Act, T.U Act and Industrial Employment Standing order Act and many amendments are made totally favouring the employers. In the said code, provision to engage "Fixed Term Employee" takes away all the rights of a worker and employers can victimize the workers at their whims and fancies. The working people throughout the country as a whole are going to face a severe onslaught on their rights and livelihood from these corporate-oriented policies if cleared by the Parliament. Under the above background, this General Council calls upon all

FMRAI's units and members.

To intensify the fight under united movement of Central trade unions and Federations against these retrograde amendments of labour laws. To campaign among the working people of the country and the general masses for united countrywide struggle to resist such onslaught on their rights and livelihood. To prepare our members for industrial action including strike on the demand to protect SPE Act. FMRAI General Council demands of the Central Government not to amend labour laws in favour of employers and stop any further amendments which are anti worker while amalgamating labour laws in four labour codes.

The GCM resolution against newer forms of attack will be published in the forthcoming issue

unethical marketing

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reasons to believe that such crude tactics is to divert the attention of the people from the real issues in health sector. In this context only this General Council Meeting notes that the rampant corruptions not only negatively impact health services but also have far-reaching 'life-and-death consequences' in the country.

Therefore, this General Council Meeting of FMRAI concludes that the government should look in to the real health issues of the people. In view of the fact that the unbridled unethical marketing of pharmaceutical products is undermining the safe and effective delivery of the health and medical care for the people in this country, this General Council Meeting of FMRAI demands of the government for enacting law with provision of stringent punishment to curb unethical marketing in the country. In this context this General Council Meeting of FMRAI held at Mysuru also resolves to campaign and to mobilise people and to organise movement for the cause of this just demand and calls upon all like-minded persons and organisations to support this cause.

Women's convention

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committee was finalized from the convention. The convention called upon all the to observe in befitting manner the International Women's Day on 8th March 2020 and appealed for participation in protest programmes on women's issues including Jail Bharo Programme scheduled on Friday, 6th March 2020.

Interview with WFTU President

'MNCs keep profit over people'

FMRAI News had an opportunity to interact with Michael Makwayiba, President of World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) on 25th January, 2020 during the 16th CITU All India Conference at Chennai. The interview was taken by Shubrangshu Bhattacharyya on behalf of FMRAI News. FMRAI News placed before him some relevant issues pertaining to the service and working conditions of the sales promotion employees and health workers in particular and the working class in general across the globe, the issue of non-compliance of labour laws by the multinational pharmaceutical companies in India, the present

scenario of the pharmaceutical sector world-wide and on taxation on medicines and its impending effect on the common people. Michael Makwayiba replied to all the issues from global point of view. He described the conditions of the working class in a single word as "pathetic". He cited several examples of different countries and termed the condition as same in most of the countries globally. On non-compliance of labour laws by the multinational pharmaceutical companies, he pointed towards the legal framework and inaction of the respective government towards profit mongering and exploitative approach of the

multinational companies in general. He also stressed upon the production of essential medicines as the pharmaceutical companies are interested to produce those medicines which are more profitable and least bothered about the welfare of common people. On taxation of medicines, Michael Makwayiba described the situation as predominant everywhere as government is bent on earning profit at the cost of the health of common people. He also appreciated FMRAI for advancing the struggle of the working class and raising the people's demands on the issues related to healthcare and access to essential medicine.

AstraZeneca Reinstatement

Field Worker employed in non-bargainable category reinstated with service continuity Dhiraj Patil, employed as a Sales Promotion Employee in the non-bargainable category in the ostensible post of Territory Business Manager in the CVRM (Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolism) division of AstraZeneca at Nashik headquarter, was unlawfully terminated by the management with effect from 2nd December, 2019. Being employed in non bargainable category his issue was taken up by MSMRA and the MSMRA leadership intervened in the issue. Astra Zeneca management held series of discussion with MSMRA. Finally, AstraZeneca management met leadership of MSMRA and the all India council leadership of Astra Zeneca council and settled the matter. Now Dhiraj Patil is reinstated with the continuity of service in his existing headquarter of Nashik with effect from 3rd February, 2020.

FMRAI GCM at Mysuru

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Commission in session

The next day the general council meeting constituted commissions and the entire contingent of general council sat to discuss in minute details three major area concerning the organization and movement. Commissions were constituted on organization, on state related movement and on council and related movement and the newer forms of attacks. Following discussion in the commission, the business session resumed. The general council members discussed on the General Secretary's report and Treasurer's report on behalf of state units. Speakers from respective commissions also briefed the discussion in the respective commissions. Thirty three General council members made deliberation on behalf of the state units and the commissions.

Citizens and resolution demanding statutory provision to curb unethical marketing were moved respectively by K. Sunil Kumar, Pranab Kr. Ray ,



Presidential address

Sanjeev Khandelwal and Subhrangshu Bhattacharjee and seconded respectively by Shiv Awasthi, Srikant Phopse, Rahul Purokayastha and Sheshnath Tiwary. Along with this, a resolution greeting the members and volunteers KSM & SRA and the reception committee was adopted in the GCM

In General Secretary's reply following discussion Santanu Chatterjee elaborated on the present state of attacks of the employers,

political and economic context of such attacks and the resistance built up the movement of the field workers and its organization, FMRAI. Major attacks come in the form of sales related victimization, imposition of newer but retrograde service and working conditions, increased work load and harassment through

imposition of , and also abuse of, gadget, devices , internet and social media. He underscored the importance of further strengthening the organization not only in geographic location and workplaces, but also within every single establishment in the pharmaceutical and other industries. He discussed developments in policy level movement, state related movement, council and council-related movement and in broad and democratic movement. He also explained development in individual companies and reminded the tasks. He also stressed in his address the right of the field workers, including the right of collective bargaining, is

under attacks. He also noted that the Mysuru GCM gives direction for finding out newer avenues and adopting aggressive course of movement for expansion of collective bargaining rights to all other establishments where it has not been achieved yet. He also noted that the Mysuru GCM advices to go for settlement of charter of demand and

achievement of collective bargaining industry-wise, instead of achieving it in individual companies. In reply to the discussion on the treasurer's report, Partha Rakshit explained the points made the members. With due incorporation both the reports were adopted in the GCM. The GCM was attended by 346 comrades (including General Council Members, Working Committee members and 15 invitees) who came from the states and union territories of the country. The credential report revealed that among the 330 men and 16 women who participated the GCM the age of 67 were between 20 and 40 years, the age of 275 were between 41 and 60 years, and age of 4 participants were 61 or above.



Placement of Treasurer's report



Placement of GS's report

General council members representing the state unit, during the course of discussion on the General Secretary's report and Treasurer's report, contributed on the reports, enriched them and made critical observations and suggestions. Resolution against anti-labour amendment of labour laws, against abuse of electronic gadgets, against contentious Citizenship(Amendment)Act , National population Register and National Register of

GCM Resolution

Demanding stringent law for curbing unethical marketing practices

This General Council Meeting of FMRAI held at Mysuru in the period between 14th to 16th February, 2020, takes note of the fact that the successive governments at the centre has failed to take any effective step to check and control the unbridled corruption in marketing of medicines, which is closely related to the safe and effective delivery of health and medical care for the people of this country.

After the new Government at centre took office following general election in 2019, the Department of Pharmaceutical (DoP) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, held a meeting with association of pharmaceutical companies attended by the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) with a view to review the implementation of the uniform code of pharmaceutical marketing practices (UCPMP) which is a voluntary code that came in to effect since 2015. As per media report P.D. Vaghela, the secretary, DoP, requested, once again, the Pharmaceutical Industry to implement self-regulation, lest the department will proceed for promulgation of law for regulation of promotional practices in the Pharma industry. Well before this review, it was revealed that self-regulation has not yielded anything and scores of pharmaceutical companies are engaged in unethical marketing practices and they continue to use expensive gifts, cash and pay for extravagant trips either for the purpose of selling the un-saleable medicines or selling these medicines at an untenable quantity or with undue preference or at unfair price. It is extremely disquieting that in a country like India, where the corruption in pharmaceutical marketing is rampant and so frequently reported, there exists no law to punish persons or organizations guilty of the unethical practice. Since 2015 the NDA government promised several times, in several occasions, that the appropriate law will be enacted. With the

objective of enacting such law several meeting with the stakeholders, including FMRAI, were held since then. In each such meeting FMRAI has demanded promulgation of statutory code or law with provision of stringent punishment instead of relying upon the voluntary code. This voluntary code sermonizes ethical views and serves as moral guidance to the pharmaceutical companies but the code do not have any provision for punishment against violation of ethical principles and solely depends on 'self-regulation'. In force since 2015, this 'self-regulation', has been proved to be as good as 'no regulation'.

The general council meeting also notes that instead of enacting the appropriate law, the government is engaged in blame game. Responsible persons in the government are making public statement, wherein the sole burden is shifted on the shoulder of the clinicians and the employees engaged by the companies for sales promotion. These acts of burden-shifting obscure the main players, the conniving pharmaceutical companies, the major organizers and beneficiaries of the unethical and corrupt promotional practices and allow them the opportunities to hide behind the cloud. In a sharp reaction to such a remark attributed to the PM (in relation to a very deplorable instance of corruption in pharmaceutical marketing in a meeting of the major pharmaceutical companies, as published in the media), Indian Medical Association (IMA), the largest body of the clinicians in the country, made a statement dated 14th January, 2020 and demanded 'to know if the government had details of the companies involved' in such corrupt practices, why then the PMO invited these companies rather than initiating 'criminal proceedings' against them. The statement also demanded of 'appropriate actions' against the doctors having complicity in this matter. IMA also made the government responsible for burden-shifting and concluded that 'IMA has ▶ To Page 3

2020 : One thousand membership by 14th February

Signifying a remarkable feat in the organizational activities Thrissur district unit of KMSRA procured one thousand membership, roughly in one and half month creating an extraordinary example of organizational zeal and involvement in the country. This subunit of FMRAI has crossed one thousand memberships for the year 2020 before 14th February 2020. In the beginning of the year, the leaders from the district decided to complete the membership renewal prior to FMRAI Mysuru General Council Meeting. The

unit leadership knew quite well that the task was quite demanding and its attainment necessitated tremendous effort. Still the unit leadership took up the task in all earnest. They got the members of all the organized councils involved in membership collection. Along with this, the 25 area committees functioning in Thrissur district collected nearly 60% of the Small Scale sector and Other Industries (OI) memberships of the respective areas in the first go. Things were possible only with deep participation, involvement and coordinated

functioning of the district committee members. Early in 2019, KMSRA Thrissur unit achieved 1467 memberships, which was felicitated during the Mysuru General Council Meeting of FMRAI. the Mysuru GCM of FMRAI also recorded its high appreciation for their commendable work in reaching the milestone of one thousand memberships in February 2020 only.

