

(15) D.A. RAJIMWALE, Nagpur and Bihar.

He was born in December 1921. His father was a Forest Officer. They settled down in Nagpur. His political activities began as a student, when he came into contact with the RSS. He was jailed in 1937 in the Vande-Mataram Satyagraha. But soon disillusioned with RSS, he joined the left-wing AISF and was also in contact with the workers and ordinary people, among whom he was already working.

He joined the trade union movement of the AITUC in Ballarshah coal fields (now in Maharashtra). He also worked among the workers in Akola, Nagpur and other places in the then Central Provinces (CP). He was associated with general workers e.g. textiles, coal, railways etc.

He later in the 1940s joined the Dhanbad School of Mines (Bihar) to study mining and was about to be sent to Sheffield (England) for further training. But here, in Dhanbad, too he continued to organize the coal and other workers. As a result he was punished and was not sent. He had also to leave the Institute. He joined full-time in the TU movement, and mainly worked in Patna and other places of Bihar. He also used to be sent to Calcutta in this connection. He actively participated in the railway strike of March 1949. He remained underground during 1948-51.

Due to set-backs to the AITUC during this period, he had to take up a job in the medical line. He turned out to be the pioneer and founder of the Federation of Medical Representatives' Association of India (FMRAI) a unique event in the 50s. He was also instrumental in getting the medical and sales representatives as "workmen" after a long and tortuous struggles with the central government. He was also associated with a number of other fields of worker' and their T.U.s e.g. bidi, railways, general, rickshaw, factory workers etc.

He has done lot of study and research in to the pharmaceutical and drug industry, the MNCs in them and their workers and written a number of articles and books on the subject. He was the initiator for the "Rest Houses" of medical representatives in Bihar. He continues to keep contact with them.

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The interview with Rajimwale was also important in two respects that it provided lot of information about a very important union that he founded i.e. the Federation of Medical Representatives' Association of India (FMRAI) a unique event in the trade union history in the 1950s. His interview revealed that he was very much instrumental in getting medical and sales representatives recognized as "workmen" after a long and arduous struggle at an all-India level with the central govt. He also revealed a lot about the history of TU movement in Maharashtra and Bihar in the area of bidi workers, railways, rickshaw workers, and others. It was revealed in the interview that Rajimwale was one of first initiators of the "rest houses" for the Medical Representatives in Bihar. It was also revealed that he was one of the old trade unionists associated with the TU movement in the Central Provinces of C.P. and Berar. Then he narrated a lot about the history of the TU struggles of the coal workers of Ballarshah, workers of Akola, Nagpur and other industrial areas in Maharashtra which gives an important insight into the TU movement in Maharashtra which in the 50s till 80s

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was the center of the TU struggle of overall India. Finally his interview is very revealing about the RSS as he was born into a Marathi Brahmin family and lived near the house of its founder Hedgewar so he knew the top RSS leaders from his childhood as his family had been traditionally RSS. There is lot of interesting revealing bits on the RSS.