



भारत सरकार  
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय  
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110 001  
Website: <http://www.wcd.nic.in>

**DR. SHREERANJAN, IAS**

JOINT SECRETARY

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**d.o.No. 5(5)/2011/ND-Tech**

**Date: 07.03.2012**

Dear *Sir,*

Please refer to a letter jointly written by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (D.O.No.5-20/2010-ND/Tech dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010) (copy enclosed) for the effective implementation of the Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infants Foods (Regulation of production, supply and distribution) Act, 1992 and the Amendment Act 2003, (IMS Act). In this regard we have received a communication from Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) mentioning that the Nestle 'Nestle Nutrition Institute' (NNI), a front organization of Nestle, has organized some seminars for the pediatricians and medical practitioners in various cities of India.

In our opinion, which has been clearly expressed in our joint letter D.O.No.5-20/2010-ND/Tech dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010, such activities are violative of Section (9) of the Infant Milk Substitute Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003. I draw your kind attention to another letter d.o.No.Z-28015/12/2010-E.I dated 29<sup>th</sup> December 2010 sent by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to your organization and others, expressing that "*IMS Act clearly prohibits sponsorship of health workers or their association directly or indirectly by the Infant Food Manufacturing companies....*"

We believe that it is clear from our joint letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010 that front organizations of baby food manufacturing companies indulging in sponsorship of doctors meetings/seminars or even acting as a host of these meetings/seminars is prohibited by Section (9) of the IMS Act and violates the intent and spirit of the law. Front organizations of Infant Food Manufacturing companies also comes under the purview of this Act.


We have given stern instructions to State Governments to take action against such programmes as well as those who attend them. All the State Governments have been requested to issue directive to all the health institutions prohibiting them from availing offers from companies producing infant foods and ensure strict compliance to the IMS Act.

Through Ministry's letter d.o.No.5(5)/2011-ND/Tech dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 written to Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and four other universities we have informed them to avoid conducting nutrition awareness programmes engaging with Infant Food Manufacturing companies and also to issue directive to all universities/educational bodies, informing them of the provisions of the IMS Act and cautioning against collaboration with companies dealing with Infant Milk Substitutes.

We encourage all organization staying away from such sponsorships or other supports provided by the infant food manufacturing companies directly or indirectly, and appreciating the stand you have been taking in protecting and promoting breastfeeding which is crucial for healthy growth and development of infants in our country.

*With regards,*

Yours Sincerely

  
(Dr. Shreerajan)

To,

Dr. Arun Gupta  
Central Coordinator  
Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)  
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi – 110 034