

Keshav Desiraju

Additional Secretary

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निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110108
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi - 110108

No. 33/2010

30th November, 2010

Dear *Dr. Talwar,*

Attention of the Ministry has been called to the 16th Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition being held at PGI, Chandigarh over 10th to 12th December, 2010. The Slogan of the Conference appears to be "Evidence Based Nutrition". The Conference further is being held in collaboration with Nestle Nutrition Institute.

2. You would be aware of the Resolution of the 63rd World Health Assembly on Infant and Young Child Nutrition in May, 2010 which recognized that the promotion of breast milk substitutes and some commercial foods for infants and young children undermine progress in optimal infant and young child feeding. You would also be aware that the Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 and the Amendment Act, 2003 prohibit any sponsorship of health workers or their associations or health systems by the manufacturers of products under the scope of law, directly or indirectly. Section 9 of the Act refers.

"Section 9(1). No person who produces, supplies, distributes or sells infant milk substitutes or feeding bottles or infant foods shall offer or give, directly or indirectly, any financial inducements or gifts to a health worker or to any member of his family for the purpose of promoting the use of such substitutes or bottles or foods."

3. Against this background, it is a matter of some concern that a major Conference of this nature is being called with the support of the industry. Recognizing the critical importance of implementing the IMS law, a letter was sent to all Chief Secretaries on 17th August, 2010 (copy enclosed) on the joint signatures of Secretary, Women and Child Development and Secretary, Health and Family Welfare.

4. PGIMER, Chandigarh is a national institution of repute and you may wish to consider whether the sponsorship of Nestle for this Conference is necessary at all, especially when it clearly violates the law. I would be grateful for your comments.

Regards

Yours sincerely,

K Desiraju
(Keshav Desiraju)

Dr. K.K. Talwar

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