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IMA

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

No IMA/F.7(121)/3484.

August 1, 1995

To

The Hony. Secretaries
All State Terr. and Local Branches of IMA

Ref. The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 and
The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Rules, 1993.

Subject : Sponsorship of seminars, advertisements in IMA Branch News Bulletins, any aid or assistance from a manufacturer and distributor of Infant Milk Substitutes and Infant Foods.

Dear Sir,

Some of the branches of the Indian Medical Association may not be aware that sponsorships of seminars or assistance from a manufacturer and distributor of Infant Milk Substitutes and Infant Foods are contrary to the provisions of the above-mentioned Act and that any person who is a party to such violation risks criminal prosecution and severe penalties including even imprisonment. We have verified all aspects of the issue and have confirmed through written opinions from leading lawyers that such sponsorships by manufacturers and others in the trade constitute criminal offences under the Act. Normally companies and even Nestle India Limited, Dalima and Glaxo have no reason to sponsor seminars/quizzes etc. for doctors except to promote their products through them.

IMA and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics have taken cognisance of such attempts by Infant Food manufacturers and others covered by the above-mentioned Act to circumvent its provisions and have decided not to accept any aid, assistance or sponsorships in whatsoever guise from the said industry.

You are, therefore, requested not to accept any sponsorships of seminars by and any aid or assistance from the manufacturers of Infant Milk Substitutes and Infant Foods which may violate the provisions of the Act.

In case any clarifications or details regarding the scope of the Act are required, the same will be furnished to you.

Thanking you and with kind regards;

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jagdish C. Sobti
Hony. Gen. Secretary