



प्रीति सूदन

सचिव

PREETI SUDAN

Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No.P.15025/88/2018-FR

Dated: 26th September, 2019

Dear Chief Secretary,

Kindly refer to my earlier communication dated 11th January, 2019 regarding ensuring compliance of various points related to health system as provided in 'The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 as amended in 2003 (IMS Act, 2003).)

2. Strict implementation of IMS Act is the most effective strategy to protect, promote and support breastfeeding and enhance optimal infant and young child feeding practices in the country. The IMS Act, 1992/ IMS Rules, 1993 provides for appointment of 'Authorised officers' for close monitoring and supervision of IMS Act implementation in the districts.

3. Section 21 (1)(b) of the IMS Act and the IMS Rules, 1993 provide for appointment of "authorised officer" not below the rank of Class I(Group A) officer duly authorised by the State Government under Section 12 of the IMS Act. Rules further provides that" *No Officer of the Government shall be authorised by the State Government unless he is -*

(a). *a medical officer in charge of health administration of a local area; or*

(b). *a graduate in medicine and has received at least one month's training in food inspection and sampling work approved for the purpose of food inspection under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 by the Central Government or a State Government. (The PFA Act has now been substituted by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006).*

4. I shall be grateful if you could consider appointing the Chief Medical Officer/District Civil Surgeon/Pediatrician In-charge of the District Hospitals, as the 'Authorised Officer' in each of the districts and where necessary by giving them the prescribed training as per the IMS Act/Rules. Such 'Authorised Officers' may be asked to take suo motto cognizance of any violations of the IMS Act, take action as per the provisions contained in the IMS Act and also provide annual monitoring reports. A copy of such reports may also be provided to this Ministry along with the Ministry for Women and Child Development.

Warm regards
Yours sincerely,
P.S.
(Preeti Sudan)

Chief Secretaries of All States/ UTs.