



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
(Registered Under Societies Registration Act
XXI of 1860, Delhi R-No S-23144)
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Tel: +91-11-27312705, 42683059
Email: bpni@bpni.org
Website: www.bpni.org

BPNI/2020/IMS Act/023

September 14, 2020

**Dr. Alpesh Gandhi,
President,
The Federation of Obstetric & Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI),
C-5,6,7,12,13, 1st Floor, Trade World,
D-wing Entrance, S. B. Marg, Kamala City,
Lower Parel (W), Mumbai-400013.**

Sub: Request to lead awareness in FOGSI Members about the IMS Act and stop violation of the IMS Act

Dear Dr. Gandhi,

This is further to the letter of Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to you (D.O. No.2-28020/47 /2017 -CH Part (6) dated 18th August 2020) regarding the violation of the section 9.2 of the *Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003*.

I would like to draw your attention to the continued activities of the FOGSI units, which have come to our attention. I am attaching information about two such activities going to happen on 15th and 16th September 2020. (Please see attached posters of these events)

May I request you to kindly communicate to all your federation member societies about such sponsorship being in violation of the law IMS Act. It seems they are not aware of the provisions of the law. This link can be helpful to read, wherein definition of health worker, promotion and Section 8 and 9 is directly related to health workers. <http://www.bpni.org/documents/IMS-act.pdf>

Allow me to share additional information (Annex-1) with you that clearly show that Abbott is one and same company manufacturing and marketing a number of products. The arguments usually given that it is another division of Abbott that sponsors do not stand the test of truth.

We therefore request you to use your good offices to share with your sub national members of FOGSI; the Letter of Secretary Health, information on IMS Act provisions, and information about Abbott being one company responsible for all its products. As FOGSI you can also request them to desist from getting sponsored by the companies that are manufacturers of baby foods for children under 2 years.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. JP Dadhich MD (Paediatrics), FNNF
National Coordinator and Technical Director, BPNI**

As a policy, BPNI does not accept funds of any kind from the companies manufacturing baby foods, feeding bottles etc. and from organization/industry having conflict of interest.