



putting child nutrition  
at the forefront  
of social change

**Breastfeeding  
Promotion Network of India**

(Registered Under Societies Registration  
Act XXI of 1860, Delhi R.No. S-23144)

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BPNI/2023/005

January 23, 2023

Sh. Rajesh Bhushan,  
Secretary  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India  
Room No 156-A  
Nirman Bhavan,  
New Delhi -110001

**Sub: A Bill to prevent commercialisation of human breastmilk**

Dear Sir,

The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) is a 31 year old national organisation working on protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in India.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022, Honourable Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare promised in the Parliament that commercialisation of human breastmilk in India is not allowed (Annex-1) "Donation of human breast milk is to be done freely and voluntarily without any monetary benefits to the donor and with an understanding that the donated milk may be used free of cost to feed the new-borns/infants of another mother admitted in the hospital".

The National Neonatology Forum is also of similar opinion and in a Statement issued in November 2022, said "The National Neonatology Forum is a professional organization committed to the welfare of newborns and their mothers. We as a body are deeply concerned by the recent trend to commercialize human milk by some companies. We strongly condemn any attempt, overtly or covertly, to commercialize human milk or its products. It is our earnest request to the Government of India and the concerned departments to take appropriate steps to prevent the sale of human milk and its products, and protect the rights of the newborn infants and their lactating mothers".

In India two companies are operating in this space as of now; licence of one is cancelled and the other is suspended by the authorities (FSSAI and AYUSH). One of these companies has filed a writ petition in the High Court, Karnataka seeking remedy while they "appropriated" the value of breastfeeding in marketing their products.

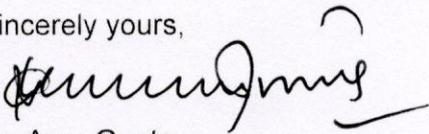
BPNI believes that selling human breastmilk is not equal to breastmilk banking; it is creating a market for human breast milk and its products. The other argument is the moment it is converted to powder form; it has to be used by dissolving in water and can be unsafe for newly born babies.

BPNI, therefore requests the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to initiate action for a Bill in the Parliament that would ban any commercial sales of human breastmilk. This is critical to ensure ethical standards and safety of new born babies.

BPNI will be happy to associate with MOHFW in taking this forward.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Arun Gupta  
Central Coordinator, BPNI

Encl: AA

PS: I am pleased to attach an Opinion piece in the Deccan Herald of 23 January 2023.  
Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/panorama/india-should-use-g20-opportunity-to-deal-with-critical-public-health-issues-1183609.html>