Breastfeeding



Promotion Network of India

(Registered Under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Delhi R-No S-23144) BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Tel: +91-11-42683059 Email: <u>bpni@bpni.org</u> Website: <u>www.bpni.org</u>

BPNI/IMS Act/2024/40

March 19, 2024

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar Hon'ble Minister of State, MoHFW, Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011 via email: <u>mos-health@gov.in</u>

Sub: Illegal Activity and Sale of Neolacta

Dear Dr. Pawar,

Please refer to the letter number T -13011/1/2022 -DCC-Part 4 dated and signed 21-09-2022 from your office.

- 1. It had indicated that the State Licensing Authority of Karnataka has cancelled the licence AUS-993 of Neolacta Lifesciences Pvt. Ltd. in response to our letter sent on 03-09-2022 regarding the same.
- 2. You may be aware that after this cancellation order the said company filed a Writ Petition WP 19352/2022 in the Karnataka High Court on 22-09-2022.
- 3. On 27-9-2022 Hon'ble Justice granted interim Stay, copy of the order is pasted. *"Learned AGA is requested to accept notice for respondent Nos.1 & 2. Issue emergent notice to respondent No.3. Interim order as prayed for till next date of hearing. This interim protection has been granted since apparently, it is a prima facie case of 'acting under dictation' subject to the version of the other side after filing of their objections. It is open to the respondents to move the matter at any time."*
- 4. It is widely reported from all over the country that the Neolacta company is selling its products freely in the same manner continuing the exploitation of poor women.
- 5. It is with this background, we approach you once again to look into this matter with utmost priority and intervene at the High Court with Government of India's objections to vacate the stay as the case is open to move the matter anytime. Delay would defeat the purpose of earlier decisions.

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We are pleased to enclose a statement of the National Neonatology Forum condemning in no uncertain words commercialisation of human milk or its products.

We, therefore, request for an urgent intervention of the Ministry of Ayush in order to achieve finality to the Writ Petition.

Thank you in advance for the necessary action.

With regards,

Sincerely,

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Dr. Arun Gupta MD, FIAP. Central Coordinator, BPNI Former Member PM's Council on India's Nutrition Challenges

Copy for advance information & appropriate action:

- The Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, <u>secy-ayush@nic.in</u>
- The Adviser (Ay.), Drug Policy section, Ministry of Ayush adviser-ayush@gov.in
- Drug Policy Section, Ministry of Ayush <u>dcc-ayush@nic.in</u>