



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
Registered Under Societies Registration Act
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BPNI/IMS Act/2025/45

September 5, 2025

To,
**Shri Anil Malik,
Secretary,
Ministry of Women and Child Development,
Government of India, New Delhi.**

Subject: Complaint on Violation of the IMS Act by Abbott Healthcare through Sponsorship of Dietitian Forum

Respected Sir,

The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) <https://www.bpni.org/> is a 33-year-old non-profit organization that works for protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in India. BPNI works on policy analysis, skill training of health workers, and monitoring the compliance with the Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003 (IMS Act). India enacted the IMS Act, which came into force in August 1993. An offence committed under this law is cognizable. The Government of India notified "Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)" wide No G.S.R. 540 (E), dated the 27th June 1994, to monitor the compliance with the Act under clause (c) of the sub-section (1) of Section 21.

I am writing to bring to your urgent attention a serious violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 as amended in 2003 (IMS Act) by Abbott Healthcare, a subsidiary of Abbott Laboratories, which manufactures and markets infant milk substitutes such as Similac.

Recently, Abbott Healthcare sponsored a Regional Dietitian Forum in New Delhi (allegedly on 30th August 2025) where dietetics professionals were invited (evidence attached). Link to the evidence post <https://bit.ly/4IZ7f8c> :(Accessed on 4th Sep 2025 at 6:48 pm)

This action is in clear violation of the **Section 9(2) of IMS Act states, "No producer, supplier or distributor referred to in sub-section (1), shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conferences, educational course, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship."** The IMS Act defines "health worker" as a person engaged in health care for mothers, infants or pregnant women.

We urge MoWCD to:

1. Initiate necessary investigation against Abbott Healthcare in this matter.
2. Issue an advisory to academic institutions (Medical and Nutrition Colleges) and nutrition professional associations (eg IDA, ICDA, NSI, IAPEN and ISCN) to refrain from engaging in any infant and baby food industry-sponsored events that violate the IMS Act.

We look forward to your urgent action on this matter. We would appreciate a line of response from your end.

Thank you!

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Nupur Bidla, PhD
Central Coordinator BPNI**

Copy to Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, MoHFW, GOI

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.