



putting child nutrition
at the forefront
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**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
(Registered Under Societies Registration
Act XXI of 1860, Delhi R.No. S-23144)
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May 15, 2015

Shri Bhanu Pratap Sharma
Secretary
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi, 110011

Subject: Request to initiate action against the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 1992, Amendment Act 2003 (IMS Act) violation by Nestle

Dear Shri Sharma,

As you are aware, the IMS Act clearly prohibits direct or indirect sponsorship of health workers or their associations or health systems by the manufacturers of the products under the scope of the law. This is evident in the Section 9 of the Act, which says,

- Section 9.1. No person who produces, supplies, distributes or sells infant milk substitutes or feeding bottles or infant foods shall offer or give, directly or indirectly, any financial inducements or gifts to a health worker or to any member of his family for the purpose of promoting the use of such substitutes or bottles or foods.
- Section 9.2. 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.

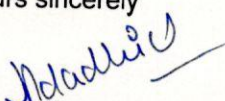
Recently we have come across that baby food manufacturer Nestle is organizing a symposium titled "emerging trends in infant nutrition: expert input meet for sharing best practices at institutional level" on 17th May 2015 at Pune for medical and health professionals. A copy of programme agenda for the symposium and a photocopy of the visiting card of Mr. Anvay Pathak, Nutrition Officer of Nestle India, who is distributing invitation letters for the programme, are attached for your perusal.

We request you to initiate appropriate action to stop this activity, which violates the IMS Act.

We hope this will draw your utmost attention in the public interest and safeguarding health of women and children in India.

With Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely


Dr J P Dadhich, MD, FNNF, PGD-DN
National Coordinator, BPNI