



putting child nutrition
at the forefront
of social change

**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**

(Registered Under Societies Registration
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April 9, 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 any sponsorship of health workers or their associations or health systems by the manufacturers of the products under the scope of the law directly or indirectly. 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 an instance of baby food manufacturer Nestle through its' front organization Nestle Nutrition Institute (NNI) sponsoring and organising NNI National Nurses Quiz 2015. The company organisation is approaching paediatric and gynaecology departments of the Medical colleges for nomination of nurses. One such invitation received at JLN Medical College Aligarh is attached for your perusal.

We request you to initiate appropriate action to stop this activity of Nestle Nutrition Institute, 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,

Dr. Arun Gupta MD FIAP
Central Coordinator, BPNI
Regional Coordinator- IBFAN Asia,
Co-Chair- IBFAN Global Council

Encl. AA: