

**BPNI/IMS Act/2025/043**

**March 3, 2025**

To,  
**Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava,**  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,  
Government of India,  
Nirman Bhawan, Delhi -110011

**Sub:** Request to initiate URGENT action on Abbott hosting an event in Dehradun on 8, 9 march 2025 for pediatricians.

Dear Ms. Srivastava,


Greetings from BPNI!

1. India enacted "*The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003*" (IMS Act). An offence committed 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 of the above Act.
2. Abbott, the company manufacturing products under the scope of the Act, is hosting an event for pediatricians at Hotel Hyatt Regency Dehradun on 8-9 March, 2025. Attached invite is the proof of the complaint. They offer the facility including tea and lunch etc.
3. This activity violates Section 9 of the IMS Act that can be seen at the GOI's web repository of laws. It is a central law.  
[https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1958?view\\_type=browse](https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1958?view_type=browse)
4. 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.***"(emphasis added)
5. Since it is critical to safeguard the interest of women and children as this law aims to protect them from commercial influence of the manufacturers of these products; BPNI requests you to kindly initiate immediate action against the offending company for violating the IMS Act and direct your State Department of Health to intervene and Stop this event.

We look forward to prompt action towards this complaint.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,



**Dr Arun Gupta**  
Central Coordinator BPNI

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.