



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
(Registered Under Societies Registration Act
XXI of 1860, Delhi R-No S-23144)
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BPNI/IMS Act/2025/44

March 3, 2025

**To,
The Director General Police
Uttarakhand
Police Headquarters,
Uttarakhand 12 Subhash Road,
Dehradun**

Sub: Reporting a Violation of Section 9 of the IMS Act by Abbott, a cognizable offence for initiating investigation and launch of prosecution.

Sir,

1. 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.(GOI's web repository of laws: https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1958?view_type=browse)
2. Offence under the Act is cognizable and bailable. Section 23. Offences to be cognizable and bailable.—Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), an offence punishable under this Act shall be— (a) bailable; (b) cognizable.
3. Therefore, as per our duty, we report this activity to you- Abbott, 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 conference facility including tea and lunch etc.
4. This activity violates Section 9 of the IMS Act Section 9 reads as under: 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; and 9 (2) No producer, supplier or distributor referred to in sub-section (1), shall offer or give any

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.

contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conference, educational course, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship.

5. Section 20 Penalty of IMS Act says (1) Any person who contravenes the provisions of section 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 or sub-section (2) of 1[section 11 and the rules made under section 26 of the Act] shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both.

Since Abbott is a manufacturer of the products under the scope of the Act, 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 the products.

Therefore, we kindly request you to initiate immediate action to investigate about this event, how it is being funded and ensure that it is stopped.

With thanks

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Nupur Bidla, PhD
National Coordinator, BPNI
Contact No- 9958163610

PS. We have written to the Secretary, MoHFW, Government of India also. The letter is attached with this email for your reference.