

# Call for passage of iodine deficiency bill

## ■ DATELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD — The National Alliance on Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding and Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) Control has demanded to immediately pass the Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Bill 2009.

The alliance urged the government to initiate the legislative process on IDD Control Bill in the parliament and take necessary actions to enforce the existing laws related to breastfeeding. There has been rampant viola-

tion of the Protection of Breastfeeding and Young Child Nutrition Ordinance 2002, they said.

The members expressed deep concerns over the poor enforcement of the legislation and delay in enactment of the IDD Control Bill, which is still pending with the Cabinet Division.

The IDD Control Bill 2009 has been vetted by all the provincial assemblies and other stakeholders including relevant government departments. The bill is looking forward for a formal push to actuate it from the parliament.

They called it an emergency situa-

tion for protection of the breastfeeding and IDD control in Pakistan and urged to expedite the process of enactment of IDD legislation and stringent measures for enforcement of BF law.

The National Alliance on BF and IDD consists of over a dozen civil society organisations including the UN agencies Unicef, World Food Programme (WFP) and APNA, NRSP, SANGI, Plan International Pakistan, and GAIN etc. Enforcement of laws in a candid manner is must in this regard, said Nadeem Iqbal, coordinator TheNetwork for Consumer Protection.