

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 92  
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

**Poor handling of entrance exams by NTA**

92. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken against NTA for its poor handling of recent entrance exams including NEET-UG 2024 and UGC-NET;
- (b) whether NTA was set up, without the approval of Parliament of India, under the Societies Registration Act only by a decision of Cabinet, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to make NTA accountable and answerable to the Parliament for its work?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 92 FOR REPLY ON 31.07.2024 REGARDING “POOR HANDLING OF ENTRANCE EXAMS BY NTA” ASKED BY SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

(a) to (c):

- After the conduct of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/malpractices were reported. The Ministry of Education asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities including conspiracy, cheating, breach of trust etc. w.r.t. the NEET(UG) 2024 Examination. The Hon’ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) 335/2024 and connected matters vide Order dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024 said that “At the present stage, there is an absence of material on the record to lead to the conclusion that the entire result of the examination stands vitiated or that there was a systemic breach in the sanctity of the examination.” Further, in compliance of the aforementioned order, the revised result of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination has been declared on 26th July, 2024.
- The matter relating to UGC NET June 2024 examination, which was cancelled on receipt of inputs on the integrity of the examination, had also been entrusted to CBI for thorough investigation on 19th June, 2024, in order to ensure the highest level of transparency and sanctity of the examination process.
- Further, in order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA, the Ministry of Education has constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts on 22.06.2024 for making recommendations on Reforms in mechanism of examination process, Improvement in Data Security protocols and Structure and functioning of National Testing Agency. The Committee comprises of the following experts:

1	Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Former Chairman, ISRO and Chairman BoG, IIT Kanpur.	Chairman
2	Dr. Randeep Guleria, Former Director, AIIMS Delhi.	Member
3	Prof. B J Rao, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Hyderabad.	Member
4	Prof. Ramamurthy K, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras.	Member
5	Shri Pankaj Bansal, Co-Founder, People Strong and Board Member- Karmayogi Bharat.	Member
6	Prof. Aditya Mittal, Dean Student Affairs, IIT Delhi	Member
7	Shri Govind Jaiswal , Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	Member Secretary

- The Committee has also co-opted two more members i.e., Prof. Amey Karkare, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kanpur and Dr. Debapriya Roy, Assistant Professor,

IIT Kanpur. The Terms of Reference of the Committee is attached as **Annexure**. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in WPC 335/2024 and connected matters, Order dated July 23rd, 2024, para 23, has said that “the committee will abide by such further directions as may be issued by this Court in its final judgement and order in regard to areas which should be enquired into by it so as to ensure that (i) the process of conducting NEET(UG) and other examinations falling within the remit of NTA is duly strengthened; and (ii) the instances which came to light during the course of present year are not repeated in future.”

- With prior approval of Union Cabinet dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, NTA was set up as an Autonomous Body of Government of India under the aegis of the then Ministry of Human Resource Development (which has been renamed later as Ministry of Education). NTA has been registered on 15 May 2018 as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a legal entity. The Central Government has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024. Stringent provisions have been made in this Act to address unfair means practices in conduct of public examinations. It is pertinent to mention that NTA is a Public Examination Authority as specified in the Schedule of the said Act, thereby bringing any examination conducted by it under the purview of the Act.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (A) to (C) OF THE REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 92 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024 ASKED BY SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "POOR HANDLING OF ENTRANCE EXAMS BY NTA"**

**Terms of Reference of the High Level Committee of Experts**

**(i) Reform in mechanism of examination process**

**(a)** To analyse the end-to-end examination process and suggest measures to improve efficiency of the system and to forestall any possible breach.

**(b)** To conduct a thorough review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Protocols of the NTA, and suggest measures to strengthen these procedures/protocols along with monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance at every level.

**(ii) Improvement in Data Security protocols**

**(a)** To evaluate the existing data security processes and protocols of NTA and recommend measures for its improvement.

**(b)** To examine existing security protocols related to the paper-setting and other processes for different examinations and make recommendations to enhance robustness of system.

**(iii) Structure & Functioning of National Testing Agency**

**(a)** To make recommendations on the organizational structure and functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA) for implementation of recommendations given under point 3(i) and 3(ii) and clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of functionaries at every level.

**(b)** Assess the current Grievance Redressal Mechanism of the NTA, identify areas of improvement and make recommendations for enhancing its efficiency.