

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1786
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024

Scam in the NEET Exam

1786. SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by Government to address the irregularities and allegations of paper leaks in the NEET examination over the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has investigated the involvement of external entities, such as coaching centers and organized crime networks, in the paper leaks and other malpractices associated with the NEET exam; and
- (c) if so, the findings of these investigations and the actions taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such incidents in the future?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (c) NTA was established in 2018 as a specialized body to conduct examinations for entrance to Higher Education Institutions. Since its inception, NTA has conducted over 240 examinations involving more than 5.4 crore candidates.

After the conduct of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on 5th 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 judgement dated 2nd August, 2024 has observed in para 84 that "Hence, sufficient material is not on record at present which indicates a systemic leak or systemic malpractice of other forms. The material on record does not, at present, substantiate the allegation that there has been a widespread malpractice which compromised the integrity of the exam." In compliance of the earlier order of the Supreme Court dated 23rd July, 2024 in the same case, the revised result of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination has been declared on 26th July, 2024.

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 Hon'ble Supreme Court in WPC 335/2024 and connected matters, Judgement dated 2nd August, 2024 has expanded the remit of the aforesaid Committee and assigned additional tasks in the fields of Examination Security and Administration, Data Security and Technological Enhancements, Policy and Stakeholder engagement and Support and Training. The Hon'ble Court has also said that in view of the expanded remit of the committee, Report of the Committee shall be submitted to Ministry of Education by 30th September, 2024.

Further, as a deterrence to unfair means in public examinations, the Central Government has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024. This Act has come into force w.e.f. 21st June, 2024 and Rules have also been notified there under on 23rd June, 2024. Stringent provisions have been made in this Act to address unfair means practices in conduct of public examinations.
