

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1787
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024

Examinations conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)

1787. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Testing Agency (NTA) is a registered society;
- (b) whether NTA comes under the purview of RTI Act, 2005;
- (c) the total number of exams conducted by NTA during the last five years;
- (d) the details of irregularities found/alleged in exams conducted by NTA, State-wise, and actions taken thereon; and
- (e) whether the High-Level Committee instituted recently by Government is considering to order a probe into all the irregularities alleged in the last five years, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) With the objective of having a specialized body to conduct entrance examinations for admission to Higher Education Institutions, the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, (the then Ministry of Human Resource Development) established the National Testing Agency (hereinafter referred as "NTA") as an autonomous, and self-sustained premier testing organization registered as a society on 15th May, 2018, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

(b) Yes, NTA comes under the purview of RTI Act, 2005.

(c) Since its inception, NTA has conducted over 240 examinations involving more than 5.4 crore candidates.

(d) 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.

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.

(e) 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.
