

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 97
ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2024**

Paper leak in NEET, 2024

97 Shri P. Wilson:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of instances of NEET paper leak 2024, persons identified, the action taken against persons responsible and proposed action plan to stop leakage and changes proposed by K. Radhakrishnan Committee;
- (b) the details of complaint and FIR registered in each State regarding NEET paper leak, steps taken thereof; and
- (c) the details of action taken against the officials of National Testing Agency (NTA) responsible for NEET paper leak?

**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. *97 FOR REPLY ON 04.12.2024 REGARDING “PAPER LEAK IN NEET, 2024” ASKED BY SHRI P. WILSON, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) to (c): The NEET(UG) 2024 Examination was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on 5th May 2024. After the conduct of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination, certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/malpractices were reported. The Ministry of Education asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities including conspiracy, cheating, breach of trust etc. with respect to 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.

As on 22.11.2024, the CBI has filed five charge sheets in NEET(UG) paper theft case against a total of 45 accused. Names of Candidates, who are beneficiaries of the paper theft / unfair means and names of the MBBS students who had solved the stolen paper or who had appeared in exam as impersonators have already been identified and sent to concerned authorities, as the case may be, for necessary action.

In order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA, the Ministry of Education constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts (HLCE) on 22.06.2024 headed by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman ISRO and Chairman BoG, IIT Kanpur. The Committee has submitted its report on 21.10.2024 and has recommended Reformation of National Common Entrance Testing including strengthening of NTA, institutional linkage with States, involvement of Test Indenting Agencies as Knowledge and Examinations partner etc. The HLCE has also laid out measures and recommended Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent breaches in both Pen and Paper Test (PPT) and Computer Based Test (CBT) examinations. Guidelines for Question Paper Setting and Vetting as per defined protocols have also been recommended. Further, besides other recommendations, the HLCE has called for detailed framework to be developed on Testing Centre Allocation Policy to prevent any unusual pattern of test centre allocation to students. The Committee also recommended constitution of a High-Powered Steering Committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations of HLCE on NTA. The High-Powered Steering Committee has already been constituted by the Ministry on 14th November, 2024.
