

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 139
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025**

Leaked NEET UG exam

139 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

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

- (a) the reasons for the leak of NEET UG exams conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) across the country so far and the status of the cases filed against thereto;
- (b) whether strict and corrective steps have been taken by Government to prevent irregularities and malpractices in NTA's examinations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is mostly relying on contractual employees in the NTA, if so, whether the appointment of permanent staff is also being considered by Government, if so, the details thereof?

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. 139 FOR REPLY ON 12.03.2025 REGARDING “LEAKED NEET UG EXAM” ASKED BY HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI NEERAJ DANGI.

(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. 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.

Further, as deterrence to unfair means in public examinations, the Central Government has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. The Act has come into force w.e.f. 21st June, 2024 and Rules thereunder have been notified on 23rd June, 2024.

NTA has been set up as a self-sustained organisation, headed by Director General, who is appointed by Central Government. Presently, the number of employees working on deputation, in NTA is 25. One employee is absorbed in NTA from his parent department. In order to further strengthen NTA, 16 new posts were created by the Government under Central Staffing Scheme, 8 at the level of Director and rest at Joint Director level. Out of the newly created posts, 3 Joint Directors have already joined NTA. NTA is also utilising the services of 43 employees on contract.
