

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2893  
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

**Rising incidents of Paper Leaks**

**2893 Shri Narain Dass Gupta:  
Shri Rajeev Shukla:**

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

- (a) the number of paper leaks reported in national and State-level exams in the last five years and actions taken thereon;
- (b) whether organized networks behind these leaks have been identified, if so, details of investigations/arrests made thereon;
- (c) the steps taken to enhance exam security and prevent future leaks;
- (d) whether Government plans to introduce a technology-driven system for secure paper distribution; and
- (e) the measures to restore public trust and ensure accountability in examination processes?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): Competitive Examinations are conducted by different bodies at National & State Level for recruitment as well as for admission in Higher Educational Institutions. Data regarding examination specific incidents is not maintained centrally in the Ministry.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has been set up as a specialised body to conduct examinations for entrance in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024 in the same case, the revised result of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination was declared on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

As on 22.11.2024, the CBI has filed five charge sheets in NEET(UG) 2024 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 authority for necessary action.

In order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by National Testing Agency (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, hiring of domain specific manpower, involvement of Test Indenting Agencies as Knowledge and Examinations partner etc. The Committee has recommended that NTA should develop institutional linkage with State/District Authorities for providing a Secure Test Administration Apparatus. In this regard, this Ministry has written to all States and Union Territories for the support of their machinery through State and District Level Committees for smooth and fair conduct of NTA examinations. 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.

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. 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2024 and Rules thereunder have been notified on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024.

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