

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AYUSH

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1941**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2026

**Differential exit examination norms for NEET and NEXT examination**

1941 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) whether, despite the admission to MBBS and AYUSH courses is conducted through the common NEET examination, different norms have been applied regarding the conduct of the National Exit Test (NEXT) examinations;
- (b) whether NEXT for MBBS graduates has been deferred due to lack of adequate preparedness and infrastructure;
- (c) whether, despite similar concerns relating to infrastructure and preparedness, a compulsory exit examination has been implemented for AYUSH students of the 2021 to 2023 batches; and
- (d) the reasons for not extending similar relief to AYUSH students as granted to MBBS students?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)

(a) The provisions for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and the National Exit Test (NEXT) for MBBS courses are stipulated under Sections 14 and 15 respectively of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, and their conduct falls under the purview of the National Medical Commission (NMC).

For Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (ASUS & H) courses, the regulatory provision is governed separately under the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020 and the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020, wherein provisions for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and National Exit Test (NEXT) are provided under Sections 14 and 15 respectively. The conduct of these

examinations for ASUS & H courses falls under the respective statutory bodies, namely the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH). Accordingly, the NExT for ASUS & H courses is determined by the concerned Commissions and is distinct from the NExT applicable to MBBS graduates.

(b) to (d) The implementation of the National Exit Test (NExT) for MBBS graduates falls under the purview of the National Medical Commission (NMC). Under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, the National Exit Test is to be conducted for the purpose of granting licence to practice medicine as MBBS medical practitioners and for enrolment in the State Register or the National Register.

As per Sub-section 3 of Section 15 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020 and the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020, the National Exit Test (NExT) is to be implemented within three years from the commencement of the Act, as notified by the Central Government. Therefore, based on numerous representations received and the recommendations of a High-Level Committee constituted by the Ministry of Ayush, it has been decided that NExT shall be applicable to students of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy admitted from the batch 2021-22 onwards.

The Central legislation governing MBBS graduates and Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy students are provided under separate Acts of Parliament and implemented by their respective statutory bodies. Accordingly, the implementation schedule of the National Exit Test (NExT) for Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy streams has been determined by the concerned administrative Ministry and Commissions, taking into account statutory provisions, stakeholder representations and the recommendations of the High-Level Committee.

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