

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 10  
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

**Paper Leaks in India in Last 10 Years & Judicial Enquiry in NEET**

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SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:  
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SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:  
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PROF. SOUGATA RAY:  
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SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:  
MS. S JOTHIMANI:  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any record of paper leaks in examinations conducted by central agencies, if so the details of such paper leaks in the last 10 years;
- (b) whether the Government have justifications for the mismanagement and alleged manipulation of results in the recently conducted National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) exams in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government conducted any enquiry into the workings of the National Testing Agency (NTA) due to the rise in complaints of mismanagement, especially after the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) and NEET exams, if so, the details thereof;

- (d) whether counselling is likely to be cancelled and old system would be restored as Pre-NEET period in view of large scale protest by student community;
- (e) the details related to the results of students who appeared in the examination outside their home state such as marks, name, rank, category etc. in the result of NEET exam declared on 24th June, 2024;
- (f) whether despite earning a huge amount through the fee taken from the candidates for different examination, NTA sources various tables to private agencies and if so, the details of the works outsourced to private agencies and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether there is a growing demand from various States including the State of Tamil Nadu to scrap NEET examinations leaving the admission process in Medical colleges to the State Governments and the stance of the Union Government; and
- (h) whether the Government has finalized dates for the NEET PG exams to be announced, without further delays?

## **ANSWER**

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

(a) to (h) Competitive Examinations are conducted by different bodies for Recruitment as well as for admission to Higher Educational Institutions. Data regarding examination specific incidents is not maintained centrally in the Ministry.

National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted NEET(UG) Examination on 5th May 2024 in OMR (Pen and paper) mode. After the conduct of the examination, certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/malpractices were reported. In only one instance, there has been a likely breach of chain of custody of Question Paper. The Ministry of Education has 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. There is no material on record to indicate any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in this pan India examination.

The Ministry of Education has constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts on 22.6.24 to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by the National Testing Agency. The Committee shall make recommendations on Reforms in mechanism of examination process, Improvement in Data Security protocols and Structure and functioning of National Testing Agency and shall submit its Report in two months.

In compliance of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court issued vide order dated 18.7.2024 in WP (Civil) No. 335/2024, NTA has uploaded marks secured by all candidates on its website city wise & centre wise, without disclosing the identity of candidates.

Considering the sensitivity involved in competitive examinations, various operational and security measures are undertaken for their smooth and fair conduct. Such measures involve engagement of specialised agencies for providing services like capturing of Biometric, Frisking, CCTV surveillance, AI Analytics with a view to identify potential impersonation, exam delivery etc. The expenditure incurred on the aforementioned activities is met from the registration fees collected.

NEET(UG) Examination has been introduced for the standardization of admission to undergraduate medical courses in the country. NEET(UG) seeks to uphold merit and to prevent exploitation, profiteering, and commercialisation of education. Currently, there is no proposal under consideration to scrap NEET(UG) Examination.

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has already notified the date for conduct of NEET-PG 2024 as 11th August 2024.

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