

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 946
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Paper Leak of UPSC/JEE or other Exams

946. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States in which the NEET scam that has affected the future of aspirants in the country has spread ;
- (b) whether the Government has made a committee to assess the impact of paper leak and sale of leaked papers in advance, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for such paper leaks on massive scale;
- (d) whether the similar paper leaks are reported in other examinations of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) or Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and other exams in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to prevent massive paper leaks in future?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The NEET(UG) 2024 Examination was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on 5th May 2024 at 4750 Centres in 571 cities (including 14 Cities abroad).

24,06,079 candidates registered for the examination, out of which 23,33,297 candidates appeared in the same. After the conduct of NEET(UG) 2024 Examination in May, 2024, certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/malpractices were reported. The Ministry of Education asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities w.r.t. the NEET(UG) 2024 Examination. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in WPC 335/2024 and connected matters, in Order dated July 23rd, 2024 has said that "Ordering the cancellation of the entire NEET(UG) 2024 Examination is not justified on the application of the settled tests which have been propounded in the decisions of this Court or on the basis of the data and material available in the record".

The UGC-NET June 2024 Examination held on 18.6.24 was cancelled after receipt of certain inputs alleging that integrity of the examination may have been compromised. The matter was entrusted to CBI for thorough investigation.

Different competitive examinations are conducted by different Central and State Government agencies. Data regarding examination specific incidents is not maintained centrally in the Ministry.

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