

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3872
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025**

Delay in NEET Exam 2024

3872. Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there was delay in conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical courses in 2024;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether large scale malpractices and impersonation of candidates were detected in all the NEET exams during the last five year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The National Testing Agency (NTA) has been set up as a specialised body to conduct examinations for entrance in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The NEET(UG) 2024 Examination was conducted by NTA as per schedule on 5th May, 2024, as published in the official notification dated 9th February, 2024.

NTA has been conducting the NEET(UG) examination on behalf of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 2019. 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) 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.
