

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 993
ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2025**

“Paper Leaks in NEET UG and UGC NET Exams”

993. Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has investigated the allegations of paper leaks in NEET UG and UGC NET Examination in 2024 and if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether accountability has been fixed for such paper leaks along with the action taken against responsible individuals or entities;
- (c) the details of comprehensive list of all examinations conducted in the country during the last ten years where the integrity was compromised; and
- (d) the details of the measures being implemented to prevent such paper leaks?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The NEET(UG) 2024 Examination was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on 5th May 2024. 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) 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.

The UGC-NET June 2024 Examination conducted by NTA 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 and the examination was conducted afresh between 21st August and 5th September, 2024. The Result of the examination has already been declared on 17th October 2024.

It is also mentioned that 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.

In order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by 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, institutional linkage with States, involvement of Test Indenting Agencies as Knowledge and Examinations partner etc. 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. Guidelines for Question Paper Setting and Vetting as per defined protocols have also been recommended. Further, besides other recommendations, the HLCE has called for detailed framework to be developed on Testing Centre Allocation Policy to prevent any unusual pattern of test centre allocation to students. The Committee also recommended constitution of a High-Powered Steering Committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations of HLCE on NTA. The High-Powered Steering Committee has already been constituted by the Ministry on 14th November, 2024.

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. 21st June, 2024 and Rules thereunder have been notified on 23rd June, 2024.
