

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3678
ANSWERED ON- 11/08/2025

Delay in Conducting NEET and UGC NET

3678. Shri Benny Behanan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of aspirants affected due to paper leaks and delay in holding NEET and UGC-NET entrance examinations during the last ten years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of paper-leaks incidents leading to cancellation or rescheduling of national-level entrance examinations during the last ten years, examination-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the total number of individuals and groups identified and arrested in such irregularities during the above period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) whether the Government has taken any step to curb the incidences of cheating and paper leaks in such competitive examinations?

ANSWER

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

(a) The National Testing Agency (NTA) was established by the Ministry of Education as a specialized body to conduct examinations for admission/fellowships in Higher Education Institutions. Since 2019, NTA has been conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) Examination for admission to undergraduate medical education in all medical institutions across the country. Prior to 2019, the NEET(UG) Examination was conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Similarly, NTA has been conducting the UGC-NET Examination to determine the eligibility of candidates for Assistant Professor and/or Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in universities and colleges since 2018. Before this, the UGC-NET Examination was conducted by CBSE.

The examination timelines have been mostly followed to ensure smooth admission processes. However, the NEET(UG) 2020 and 2021 exams, as well as the UGC-NET December 2020 and May 2021 cycle, were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related logistical challenges. This was due to an unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 which had affected academic schedules as a whole.

As regards the UGC-NET June 2024 Examination, held on 18.6.24 and later cancelled, the examination was conducted between 21st August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024 in Computer Based Test (C.B.T.) mode and result was declared on 17.10.2024.

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 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 had been declared on 26th July, 2024.

NTA has started declaration of Examination Calendar of major examinations, much in advance for the facilitation of candidates. The Examination calendar is planned taking into consideration, buffer days to accommodate for reschedules/postponements for reasons beyond the control of NTA.

(b) and (c) Competitive Examinations are conducted by different bodies at National & State Level for recruitment as well as for admission in Educational Institutions. Data Regarding Examination specific incidents is not maintained centrally in the Ministry.

(d) 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.

A High-Powered Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman, I.S.R.O. is already constituted to oversee the implementation of reforms in the conduct of national-level examinations by the NTA.
