

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 307  
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026**

**Unfair Means in Competitive Examinations**

†307. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that incidents of paper leaks and cheating in various competitive examinations in the country have been reported frequently;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact some strict law to check such incidents; and
- (d) if so, the key provisions of said Act and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) Competitive Examinations are conducted by different bodies at National & State Level for recruitment as well as for admission in Educational Institutions.

As a deterrence to unfair means and in order to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility in public examinations, the Central Government has notified *The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act and Rules, 2024*. The Act contains stringent provisions to deal with unfair means used or offences committed by persons / organized groups / other organizations that adversely impacts public examinations conducted by Central Government and its agencies. All offences under the Act are cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable. Penal provisions include imprisonment up to 10 years, fine up to 1 crore rupees or more, attachment of property in case of organised crime, etc. The Act serves as an effective legal deterrent for persons, organized groups or other organisations that indulge in various unfair means, thereby adversely impacting public examination systems.

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