

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 42
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2026**

Impact on Equity, Coaching Dependence and EWS/Rural Students

42. Adv. Chandra Shekhar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government maintain disaggregated data for NEET-UG 2024 showing the share of toppers and candidates scoring 600+ by schooling background (government school, private school, coached candidates) and include, where recorded, average coaching fees and the top coaching chains attended;
- (b) whether the Government has commissioned any studies, internal analyses or surveys confirming whether the national single-window NEET system has increased dependence on paid coaching and disproportionately disadvantaged EWS and rural students along with the full reports and policy responses; and
- (c) the details of the concrete measures, deadlines and responsible Ministries to improve access for EWS/rural students, including mandatory regional-language audits of papers (with pilot timeline), targets and timelines to increase MBBS seats in Government colleges (percentage and absolute numbers) and proposals to reduce or waive off exam fees for disadvantaged categories?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) NEET applicants furnish individual details as part of the application process based on documentary evidence and self-disclosure depending on type of information field. Data related to coaching chain or coaching fee paid by the candidate is not collected as part of this process. On the basis of the candidate's domicile State/UT or the state from which candidate has passed his/her class XII, it emanates that the rural participation has improved consistently from 2022 to 2025, with number of registrations from rural areas surpassing the registrations from urban areas from 2023 onwards.

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education (MoE) has circulated Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Center to States/UTs on 16.01.2024. Education being in the concurrent list, the role of States and UT Governments by way of enacting apt legal framework is of crucial importance. The guidelines for regulation of coaching centres are accessible at [https://www.aicte.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guideliens Coaching Centres Ministry%20of%20Education.pdf](https://www.aicte.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guideliens%20Coaching%20Centres%20Ministry%20of%20Education.pdf). Recently, a National Consultation with Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal

Secretaries / Secretaries of School Education, Higher Education, Technical Education and Medical Education Departments of States/UTs was held on 04.07.2026 to discuss "Measures to Reduce Students' Dependence on Coaching Centres". Additionally, the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur has started SATHEE (Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Examination) portal to provide quality education to every student who intend to participate in competitive Education such as JEE, NEET and various State level Engineering and other Examinations.

National Testing Agency is presently conducting NEET (UG) in 13 languages, namely, English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu to facilitate candidates across the country. Concessional examination fees are provided for candidates belonging to General-EWS/ Other Backward Classes-Non-Creamy Layer / Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes / Persons with Benchmark Disabilities / Persons with Disabilities / Third Gender, as per the prevailing fee structure notified by the National Testing Agency. Further, NEET (UG) re-exam was conducted at 5,454 centres, in order to make it more accessible for rural students.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) is governing the admission to undergraduate medical courses, (including the number of MBBS seats in Government medical colleges) as per the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. On 24.09.2025, the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Upgradation of existing Government Medical Colleges for increasing 5,023 MBBS seats.
