

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1784
ANSWERED ON: 11.12.2024**

Internal review or audit of NEET exams

1784 Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a)□whether Government has conducted an internal review or audit to assess the reasons for the poor handling of the NEET-UG 2024 and UGC-NET exams and what were the key findings;
- (b)□the steps taken to ensure that such mismanagement does not recur in future exams managed by NTA; and
- (c)□whether Government received complaints from students, parents or educational bodies regarding the handling of these exams and the actions taken in response to those complaints?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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 has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities including conspiracy, cheating, breach of trust etc. 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 has been declared on 26th July, 2024.

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 scheduled afresh between 21st August and 5th September, 2024. The Result of the examination has already been declared on 17th October 2024.

In order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by National Testing Agency (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, hiring of domain specific manpower, involvement of Test Indenting Agencies as Knowledge and Examinations partner etc. The Committee has recommended that NTA should develop institutional linkage with State/District Authorities for providing a Secure Test Administration Apparatus. In this regard, this Ministry has written to all States and Union Territories for the support of their machinery through State and District Level Committees for smooth and fair conduct of NTA examinations.

The HLCE has 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, which has 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.
