

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1000  
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

**Breach of Confidentiality of Exams by NTA**

1000. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the breach of confidentiality affecting students during the conduct of various examinations by the National Testing Agency (NTA), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the highest standards of confidentiality and integrity in the examination process and to improve the current processes and infrastructure of the NTA to enhance the overall examination experience for students;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the inconvenience faced by students due to the allocation of distant and inaccessible testing centres by the National Testing Agency (NTA), if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that testing centers are conveniently located for all students, particularly those in rural and remote areas?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) NTA was established in 2018 as a specialized body to conduct examinations for entrance to Higher Education Institutions. Since its inception, NTA has conducted over 240 examinations involving more than 5.4 crore students.

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 WPC 335/2024 and connected matters, in Order dated July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 has said that "Ordering the cancellation of the entire NEET(UG) 2024 Examination is not justified on the application of the settled tests which have been propounded in the decisions of this Court or on the basis of the data and material available in the record".

The UGC-NET June 2024 Examination held 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 for thorough investigation.

To suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by the NTA, the Ministry of Education has constituted on 22.06.2024 a seven member High-Level Committee of Experts, headed by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman ISRO and Chairman BoG, IIT Kanpur to make recommendations on Reforms in mechanism of examination process, Improvement in Data Security protocols and Structure and functioning of NTA. The mandate of the Committee includes analysis of end-to-end examination process, thorough review of standard operating Procedures/Protocols and evaluation of existing data security protocols. The committee shall submit report in two months.

As a deterrence to unfair means in public examinations, the Central Government has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024. This Act has come into force w.e.f. 21st June, 2024 and Rules have also been notified there under on 23rd June, 2024.

Centres are allotted to candidates through Computer Software as per City preference and availability of capacity in each centre. Efforts are made to allot centres in one of the city choices filled-in by the candidates. However, when the number of candidates is very large, some candidates may not be accommodated in cities opted by them. In such cases, NTA tries to accommodate them in nearby places. Also, whenever there is a shortfall of computer nodes in a particular city, wherever possible Higher Education Institutions and AICTE affiliated institutions are requested to provide their premises for conduct of examinations.

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