

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *16
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Cases registered against Leakage of NEET UG Paper

*16. SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish effective mechanism for ensuring confidentiality of various examinations conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases registered against the leakage of NEET UG question paper and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the details regarding the allegation against the loss of confidentiality of examination conducted by NTA for the last five years and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *16 FOR REPLY ON 22.07.2024 REGARDING “CASES REGISTERED AGAINST LEAKAGE OF NEET UG PAPER” ASKED BY SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) to (d):

• National Testing Agency (NTA) was established in 2018 as a specialised 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. In order to suggest effective measures for conducting transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA, the Ministry of Education has constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts on 22.06.2024 for making recommendations on Reforms in mechanism of examination process, Improvement in Data Security protocols and Structure and functioning of National Testing Agency. The Committee comprises of the following experts:

1	Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Former Chairman, ISRO and Chairman BoG, IIT Kanpur.	Chairman
2	Dr. Randeep Guleria, Former Director, AIIMS Delhi.	Member
3	Prof. B J Rao, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Hyderabad.	Member
4	Prof. Ramamurthy K, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras.	Member
5	Shri Pankaj Bansal, Co-Founder, People Strong and Board Member- Karmayogi Bharat.	Member
6	Prof. Aditya Mittal, Dean Student Affairs, IIT Delhi	Member
7	Shri Govind Jaiswal , Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	Member Secretary

• The Committee has also co-opted two more members i.e., Prof. Amey Karkare, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kanpur and Dr. Debapriya Roy, Assistant Professor, IIT Kanpur. The Terms of Reference of the Committee is attached as **Annexure**.

• In the NEET(UG) 2024 Examination, in only one case, a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged in Shastrinagar Police Station in Patna on 5th May, 2024 alleging a leak of Question Paper. For a comprehensive investigation in this matter, the Ministry of Education entrusted it to the Central Bureau of Investigation by formally lodging a complaint on 22.6.24. Accordingly, an FIR in this matter has been registered by CBI on 23.6.24.

• Further, 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 thereunder on 23rd June, 2024.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (A) to (D) OF THE REPLY OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *16 ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024 ASKED BY SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "CASES REGISTERED AGAINST LEAKAGE OF NEET UG PAPER"

Terms of Reference of the High Level Committee of Experts

(i) Reform in mechanism of examination process

(a) To analyse the end-to-end examination process and suggest measures to improve efficiency of the system and to forestall any possible breach.

(b) To conduct a thorough review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Protocols of the NTA, and suggest measures to strengthen these procedures/protocols along with monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance at every level.

(ii) Improvement in Data Security protocols

(a) To evaluate the existing data security processes and protocols of NTA and recommend measures for its improvement.

(b) To examine existing security protocols related to the paper-setting and other processes for different examinations and make recommendations to enhance robustness of system.

(iii) Structure & Functioning of National Testing Agency

(a) To make recommendations on the organizational structure and functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA) for implementation of recommendations given under point 3(i) and 3(ii) and clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of functionaries at every level.

(b) Assess the current Grievance Redressal Mechanism of the NTA, identify areas of improvement and make recommendations for enhancing its efficiency.