

**Annual Status of Education Report**

1325. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pratham, an NGO, has done stellar work and brought out its latest Annual Status of Education Report on primary education;
- (b) whether the said NGO has provoked policymakers to urgently assess and tackle the crisis in India's primary school education;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures Government is taking to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, presents certain positive findings, including that more than 96% children in the 6-14 years age group are enrolled in schools in rural areas, while the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 years age group has dropped from 4% in 2009 to 3.5% in 2012. The report expresses concern regarding the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. It is indeed a valuable input, along with other material, into the work of policy-makers.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which specially focuses on rural and backward areas, the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including the provision of 20-day in-service teacher training, the distribution of free and improved textbooks, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for school and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning material, etc.

**Implementation of Pay Commission recommendations in BHU**

1326. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission have been implemented in respect of the nursing staff of Banaras Hindu University (BHU);