

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3545**  
**ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025**

**Synergy between Education and Skilling**

3545 Dr. Sikander Kumar

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any capacity building workshop for school health wellness, under Ayushman Bharat in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has organised any programmes happy classrooms to foster joyful learning environment, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken regarding transforming school education into a job - oriented system and improving primary-level education to curtail dropout rates in Himachal Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) & (b): Yes, regular capacity-building workshops are conducted by the Government for the School Health and Wellness Programme under Ayushman Bharat. As part of this programme, teachers undergo capacity-building training across eleven themes, including: growing up healthy; emotional well-being and mental health; inter-personal relationships; values and responsible citizenship; gender equality; nutrition, health and sanitation; prevention and management of substance misuse; promotion of a healthy lifestyle; reproductive health and HIV prevention; safety and security against violence and injuries; and the promotion of the safe use of the internet, gadgets and media.

Under this programme, a total of 4797 Government Middle and Senior Secondary Schools in the State, with two nodal teacher officers selected and designated as Health and Wellness Ambassadors (HWA) from each school, have been covered. These HWAs are trained through District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) to conduct one-hour weekly sessions centring dissemination important information regarding health promotion and disease prevention in their respective schools. A total of 9071 HWAs were trained under this programme while 4514 Principals across all Government Middle, High and Senior Secondary Schools were also sensitised. Additionally, during the Financial Year 2024-25, refresher training for teachers from the Department of Health and Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh were conducted in batches for Block Resource Groups (BRGs) across six districts namely Bilaspur, Chamba, Mandi, Kangra, Sirmour and Und in the first phase and a total 264 BRGs were trained. Currently, refresher trainings through DIET are being held for 2121 already trained HWAs and training for newly designated 3717 HWAs.

These trainings enhance the competence levels of teachers, equipping them with a better understanding of various aspects of child development in contemporary challenges and enabling them to address these effectively.

The details of the training sessions conducted under this programme in the last two years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total No of Block Resource Groups trained</b>	<b>Total No. of Health and Wellness Ambassadors Trained</b>
2023-24	214	1878
2024-25	2121	3717

(c): Yes, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has undertaken numerous activities to foster a joyful learning environment in schools. At the Primary and Pre-primary levels, the following activities are implemented:

- Three-month school readiness programme, aligned with Vidya Pradesh, is being implemented for class-I students.
- School Readiness Melas are being organised at the foundational stage to enhance community participation.
- Bi-weekly WhatsApp messages, including rhymes, poems and stories, are being shared with mothers to encourage home-based learning.
- An innovative initiative, "Pehli Shikshak Ma", has been introduced to strengthen preschool education.
- To make the learning-teaching process more engaging, teaching-learning materials (TLMs) are being provided to pre-primary and primary schools.
- Capacity-building workshops are being conducted for teachers to encourage implementation of strategies that promote learning through play-based methodologies.
- Outdoor and indoor play material is provided in the foundational stage.
- Four corner activities are being conducted in classrooms to enhance experiential learning for children studying in preschool.
- Teachers have been trained specifically in toy-based learning, including making indigenous toys and developing innovative teaching-learning materials (TLM).
- Classrooms have been enriched with print-rich materials, such as cards, charts, activity booklets and story cards, to create an engaging and stimulating learning environment.

At the Secondary and Senior Secondary School levels, the State has integrated technology to enhance joyful learning. Out of the 2,949 Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools, Smart Classrooms have been established in 2,133 schools and ICT labs have been set up in 2,555 schools.

Ministry of Education (MoE) has emphasised joyful learning through various initiatives. In this light, teachers are trained to make classes enjoyable, meaningful and engaging by integrating happiness activities into their everyday teaching methods.

(d): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L, MoE) has been implementing Samagra Shiksha, an Integrated Centrally Sponsored scheme for School

Education, since 2018-19. The scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to ensure that all children, including those in Himachal Pradesh, have access to quality education in an equitable and inclusive classroom environment. This approach accommodates diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs and varying academic abilities while encouraging active participation in the learning process.

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories (UTs) for various initiatives aimed at reducing dropout rates. These include the opening and strengthening of new schools up to the Senior Secondary level, the construction of school buildings and additional classrooms and the establishment and operation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs) and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalyayas (NSCBAVs). Additionally, the scheme supports provisions such as free uniforms, free textbooks, transport allowances and enrolment and retention drives. Special training is also provided for the age-appropriate admission of Out of School Children (OoSC) through residential and non-residential training, seasonal hostels, special training centres at worksites and transport/ escort facilities to facilitate their integration into the formal schooling system. Further, financial assistance of upto Rs. 2000 per annum is provided for OoSC in the age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio-economically disadvantaged groups, towards completing their education through NIOS/ SIOS, accessing course materials and certification.

For children with special needs (CwSN), financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment, aids and appliances, Braille kits and books, suitable learning-teaching materials and stipends for girl students with disabilities.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory Elementary education to every child, in the age group of 6 to 14 years, in a neighbourhood school. Also, Section 10 of the RTE Act states that it is the duty of every parent or guardian to admit or cause to be admitted his or her child or ward, as the case may be, for Elementary education in the neighbourhood school.

Himachal Pradesh is implementing skill education in 1,758 Schools out of 2,949 Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools. At present, skill education is being imparted in 1,690 Senior Secondary Schools and 68 Hub Schools across 16 Trades, benefiting over 1.4 lakh students in the State. To enhance employment opportunities, job fairs are being conducted for trained students across the State for all 16 Trades.

Additionally, vertical mobility pathways have been established in the Tourism & Hospitality and Retail trades, enabling students to pursue higher education through Bachelor of Vocation Education (B. Voc.) in selected colleges across the State. The Government has also introduced the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC) in schools across Kangra, Una and Hamirpur districts to foster self-employment and innovation. Career counselling sessions have been conducted for 56,529 students in Kangra and 7,143 students in Una and Hamirpur. Moreover, the State in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi is providing mentorship and handholding support to further strengthen self-employment of students.

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