

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 89**  
**ANSWERED ON 11/12/2023**

**Decline in number of PMUY beneficiaries**

**89 Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that when the cylinder price was ₹ 400 at the beginning of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), about 80 per cent of the PMUY beneficiaries used gas stoves but only 30 per cent of the customers are still refilling gas, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government is planning to reduce the price of cylinders so that more PMUY beneficiaries can use gas stoves?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**  
**(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)**

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 89 for reply on 11.12.2023 regarding Decline in number of PMUY beneficiaries asked by Dr. Ameer Yajnik.**

(a) & (b): No Sir.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was started in May, 2016 with the objective of providing access to clean cooking fuel to poor households in the country according to a defined criteria. Under PMUY, deposit free LPG connections are provided to adult women from poor households. While a total of 3.09 crore PMUY consumers took refills in 2017-18, the number of PMUY beneficiaries taking refills has gone upto 8.41 crore in 2022-23. More than 100.85 crore refills have been taken by PMUY beneficiaries in the last 3 years alone. Per capita consumption of PMUY beneficiaries has increased from 3.01 Refills/annum (in terms of 14.2 Kg refill) during FY 2019-20, to 3.71 Refills/annum during FY 2022-23 & further to 3.8 refills in 2023-24 (till October 2023).

India imports more than 60% of its domestic LPG consumption. Price of LPG in the country is linked to its price in the international market. Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for domestic LPG. During the period 2020-21 to 2022-23, the average Saudi CP (international benchmark for LPG pricing) went up from \$415 per MT to \$712 per MT. However, the increase in the international prices was not fully passed on to the customers. The effective price of domestic LPG cylinder in neighboring countries is as below:

(In Indian Rupees)

Country	Domestic LPG (Rs./14.2 kg. cyl.)#
India	603.00*
Pakistan	1059.46
Sri Lanka	1032.35
Nepal	1198.56

#Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

\*Effective cost to PMUY beneficiaries in Delhi

Government has reduced the Effective Price of domestic LPG by Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. Under PAHAL Scheme, the domestic LPG cylinders are sold at non-subsidised price and the applicable subsidy to the consumers is transferred directly into their bank accounts. Apart from the direct subsidy to bank accounts to consumers, the OMCs have also been compensated Rs 22,000 crore in FY 2022-23 by Government of India to cover the under-recoveries suffered by them in not passing on the high international prices to the domestic LPG consumers.

3 free refills were provided to PMUY beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package from April 2020 to December 2020. W.e.f. 21<sup>st</sup>May, 2022, Government has been providing a budgetary support for targeted subsidy of Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries for upto 12 refills a year for years 2022-23 and 2023-24. Moreover, w.e.f. 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, the targeted subsidy has been further increased to Rs. 300 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder for all Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries. As on 01.12.2023, the effective price of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers is Rs. 603 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder (in Delhi).

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