

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.- 928
ANSWERED ON 11th DECEMBER, 2023

Effective utilization of the PMUY scheme

928 : Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu:
Dr. Ameer Yajnik:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that one in four beneficiaries under PMUY did not receive any cylinder or received only a single refill during the financial year 2022-2023, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of a subsidy of ` 200 for PMUY beneficiaries, LPG cylinder prices reached ` 903 in March 2023, thereby exacerbating the problem; and
- (c) the measures Government plans to implement to address this concerning trend and ensure effective utilization of the PMUY scheme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) to (c): Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was started in May, 2016 with an objective to provide access of clean cooking fuel to poor households across the country. Under PMUY scheme, deposit free LPG connections are provided to adult women from poor households. Total domestic LPG connections in the country have remarkably increased from 16.62 crore in April 2016 to more than 31.5 crore as of September 2023 including 9.59 crore connections under PMUY. Per capita consumption of PMUY Beneficiaries has also 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). Further, during 2022-23, more than 87.5% PMUY beneficiaries took one or more refills.

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. Government has reduced the Retail Selling Price of domestic LPG by Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg cylinder with effect from 30th August, 2023.

To make LPG more affordable to PMUY consumers and ensure sustained usage of LPG by them, Government started a targeted subsidy of ₹ 200/- per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per Annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 Kg connections) to the PMUY consumers in May 2022. In October 2023, Government has increased targeted subsidy to ₹ 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per Annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 Kg connections). As on 01.12.2023, the effective price of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers is Rs. 603 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder (Delhi).