

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.- 269
ANSWERED ON- 18/08/2025

UJJWALA SCHEME BENEFICIARIES IN THE STATE OF ODISHA

* 269 SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries under PM Ujjwala Yojana in the State of Odisha;
- (b) refill rates and average consumption patterns in rural areas;
- (c) challenges faced in promoting LPG usage among tribal communities;
- (d) support provided to ensure regular refilling; and
- (e) whether any third-party audit or impact evaluation has been undertaken?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 269 FOR REPLY ON 18.08.2025 REGARDING 'UJJWALA SCHEME BENEFICIARIES IN THE STATE OF ODISHA' ASKED BY SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA.

(a): Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in May, 2016 with an objective to provide deposit free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country. The target to release 8 crore connections under PMUY was achieved in September 2019. To cover the remaining poor households, Ujjwala 2.0 was launched in August 2021 with a target to release 1 crore additional PMUY connections, which was achieved in January 2022. Subsequently, the Government decided to release 60 lakh more LPG connections under Ujjwala 2.0 and the target of 1.60 crore Ujjwala 2.0 connections was also achieved during December 2022. Further, Government approved release of additional 75 lakh connections under PMUY scheme which was also achieved by July 2024. As on 01.07.2025, there are 10.33 crore PMUY connections across the country including 55.48 lakh connections in the state of Odisha.

(b): Per capita consumption (in terms of no. of 14.2 kg LPG cylinders taken per year) of PMUY beneficiaries (more than 80% of which comprise rural households) has increased from 3.68 in FY 2021-22 to 4.47 in FY 2024-25. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have immensely improved the distribution infrastructure for domestic LPG. As of July 01, 2025, there are a total of 25,573 LPG distributorships across the country, out of which 17,646 are serving rural areas. These are served through 213 LPG bottling plant of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) located across the country. In order to improve access of LPG in rural and remote areas, OMCs have commissioned 7997 distributorships, during 01.04.2016 to 30.06.2025 across the country, out of which 7403 (i.e. 93 %) cater to rural areas.

(c): Implementation of PMUY is monitored closely in terms of number of eligible beneficiaries identified and the actual number of connections released vis-a-vis LPG coverage in States/Districts. Despite the initial difficulties faced by OMCs which were mainly related to the identification of households, difficult terrain, low awareness on usefulness of LPG etc., LPG coverage in the country has improved from 62% in April 2016 to near saturation now. As on 01.07.2025, Out of total 10.33 crore LPG connections under PMUY, more than 3.13 crore connections have been given to SC/ST consumers.

(d): To make LPG more affordable to PMUY consumers and ensure sustained usage of LPG by them, Government started a targeted subsidy of Rs.200/- per 14.2 kg cylinder (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 Kg connections) to the PMUY consumers in May 2022. In October 2023, Government increased the targeted subsidy to Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder. After a targeted subsidy of Rs. 300/cylinder to PMUY consumers, Government is providing 14.2 Kg LPG cylinders at an effective price of Rs.553 per cylinder (in Delhi). This is available to more than 10.33 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries, across the country.

(e): Various independent studies and reports including third party evaluation have shown that PMUY scheme has had a significant positive impact on the lives of rural households, especially women and families in rural and remote areas. Some key benefits are briefly explained below:

(i) PMUY had resulted in a shift from traditional cooking methods that involve burning solid fuels like wood, dung and crop residues. The use of cleaner fuel lowers indoor air pollution, leading to improved respiratory health, particularly among women and children who are traditionally more exposed to household smoke.

(ii) Households in rural areas, especially those in remote locations, often spend a significant portion of their time and energy in collecting traditional cooking fuels. LPG has reduced drudgery and the time spent on cooking by women of poor households. The free time, thus, available with them can be utilized in multiple spheres for enhanced economic productivity.

(iii) Transition from biomass and traditional fuels to LPG reduces the dependency on wood and other biomass for cooking purposes, leading to a decrease in deforestation and environmental degradation. This benefits not only the households but also contributes to broader environmental conservation efforts.

(iv) With improved cooking facilities, there is a potential positive impact on nutrition. Families may find it easier to cook a variety of nutritious meals, contributing to better overall health.
