

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 142
ANSWERED ON - 20/07/2026

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES COVERED UNDER PMUY

142 # SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI KANAD PURKAYASTHA:

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

- (a) the total number of beneficiaries covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as on May 2026;
- (b) the progress made so far in LPG connections distribution in 2026;
- (c) whether improved LPG coverage under PMUY had an impact on the reduction of respiratory diseases and health conditions related to indoor air pollution; and
- (d) the safety initiatives undertaken, including free inspections and LPG hose replacement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) & (b): 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. Government had approved the release of 25 lakh additional LPG connections under PMUY during Financial Year 2025-26.

As on 01.07.2026, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released 25 lakh LPG connections under the latest extension, taking the total number of connections under the PMUY scheme to 10.58 crore.

(c): PMUY has had a significant positive impact on the lives of rural households, especially women and families in rural and remote areas including 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.

As per a recent evaluation report of the PMUY, minimizing exposure to indoor smoke from traditional fuels has had a positive impact on beneficiaries' health, particularly in reducing smoke-related ailments. Further, as per the report, 74.27% of beneficiaries surveyed reported a reduction in indoor air pollution after adopting LPG. Beneficiaries who previously relied on solid fuels for cooking had commonly experienced respiratory ailments, eye irritation, and other chronic health conditions. Following the transition to LPG, about 80.78% beneficiaries have seen reduction in cough and breathlessness. Simultaneously, a large percentage of beneficiaries have reported reduction in eye irritation, smoke inhalation, and a decline in headaches and dizziness.

Another study conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) highlighted that in 2019 the estimated annual average ambient air quality (PM_{2.5}) levels of major Indian states were in the range of 5–16 µg/m³ under the business-as-usual scenario (without PMUY),

whereas with the implementation of PMUY, the levels were estimated to be in the range of 4–8 µg/m³ indicating that PMUY has a positive implication for both household and ambient air pollution.

Further, an evaluation of PMUY conducted by IIT Kanpur across six states found that indoor air quality during cooking hours were nearly twice as good in households using LPG cylinders compared to low-LPG and traditional chulha-using households. The analysis of the PMUY survey carried out as part of this evaluation clearly demonstrates the health benefits of LPG usage under PMUY, especially for primary cooking persons.

(d): To improve awareness amongst LPG consumers, a Basic Safety campaign was organised during 2024-2025 across the country under the theme “Khushiyan Ab Teen Guna” with the objective of reaching the doorsteps of domestic LPG customers. The campaign was designed to educate consumers on the safe usage of LPG, complemented by extensive mass awareness initiatives through print and electronic media, on-site safety checks at customer premises, and the replacement of Suraksha hoses. The campaign achieved significant progress with over 12.12 crore free basic safety checks conducted at customer premises without any cost to consumer and more than 4.65 crore LPG hoses replaced at discounted rates. Additionally, audio-visual (AV) materials were utilized during various field safety initiatives, such as LPG Panchayats and LPG Safety Clinics in schools, as well as for general public outreach. These AVs were also shared across social media platforms to maximize reach and impact. Special emphasis was laid on covering PMUY beneficiaries and low-income group customers, to ensure safe usage of LPG and adequate availability of connections.
