GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.- 2516
ANSWERED ON- 10/08/2026

PM UJJWALA YOJANA

2516 SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

(a) the cumulative number of free cooking gas connections distributed nationwide under the PM Ujjwala Yojana;
(b) the strategic steps taken to enhance domestic crude oil exploration under open acreage licensing;
(c) whether the Central Government has achieved targeted ethanol blending percentages in petrol across all States;
(d) the expansion metrics of city gas distribution networks providing piped natural gas; and
(e) the fiscal measures deployed to insulate consumers from international energy volatility?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(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. As on 01.08.2026, there were approximately 10.57 crore PMUY connections across the country.

(b): The Government has undertaken a series of comprehensive policy, regulatory and fiscal measures to boost domestic crude oil and natural gas production and reduce dependency on imports with the objective of strengthening the country's energy security and reducing foreign exchange expenditure through participation by both public and private sector companies, which, inter-alia, include reforms viz. legislative changes through the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, removal of No-Go restrictions in the country's offshore areas, transition from Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) to Revenue Sharing Contracts (RSCs), massive investment in acquisition and processing of seismic data, increase in number of exploratory wells drilled etc.

(c): India has achieved 20% ethanol blending after more than two decades of phased policy development, stakeholder consultations, scientific evaluation and capacity creation. The rollout was preceded by progressive enhancement of ethanol production capacity, retail infrastructure readiness, fuel quality standards and vehicle compatibility assessments, ensuring that the transition remained gradual, safe and scientifically validated. During the ESY 2025–26, as on 30.06.2026, more than 743 crore litres of ethanol have been blended, maintaining an average ethanol blending of 20% in petrol.

(d): Providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections is part of the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network, which inter alia include creation of pipeline infrastructure and other facilities for the supply of PNG to domestic, commercial and industrial units. This is being carried out by entities authorized by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). After completion of 12/12A CGD bidding round, PNGRB has authorized entities for the development of CGD network in 309 Geographical Areas (GAs), covering the entire mainland area of the country. As on 31.05.2026, the authorized CGD entities have provided 1,70,69,775 PNG (D) connections across the country against the Minimum Work Programme (MWP) targets of 12,65,41,862 PNG (D) connections to be achieved by 2034.

(e): Prices of petrol and diesel in the country are market-determined and the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel.

Prior to the West Asia crisis, crude oil prices (Indian basket) were USD 69/barrel (February 2026) and increased to USD 136.68/barrel during March 2026 and have continued to fluctuate due to various geopolitical and market factors. Despite incurring significant losses on sale of petrol and diesel, their prices were increased only marginally by the PSU OMCs. The current RSP of Petrol and Diesel are Rs.102.12 and Rs. 95.20 per litre respectively (Delhi prices).

Further, to protect consumers from its impact, in March 2026, Government reduced the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 10 per litre each, but at the same time resulting in a substantial reduction of its tax revenues.

The Retail Selling Price of domestic LPG is being maintained at Rs. 942 per 14.2 Kg cylinder (Delhi) since June 2026, which carried an implicit subsidy (under-recovery) of more than Rs 700 per 14.2 Kg cylinder in June 2026 and Rs 500 per cylinder during July 2026. Even for the month of August 2026, the RSP of 14.2 Kg cylinder carries an implicit subsidy of Rs. 188 per cylinder. For more than 10.5 crore PMUY consumers, the effective price is only Rs. 642 per cylinder (upto 4 refills per year), after a targeted subsidy of Rs. 300 per cylinder.

Government have been ensuring availability of domestic LPG at affordable prices to households in the country for which Government have paid to the OMCs a compensation of Rs. 22,000 crore in FY 2022-23 and paying Rs. 30,000 crore during FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27. Even after the payment of this compensation, accumulated under-recoveries of the PSU OMCs on domestic LPG were more than Rs 59,000 crores as of 31st July, 2026 itself.

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