

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 362
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th JANUARY, 2019

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

*362. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

(a) whether the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) are not shifting from biomass to LPG because of very high price of installing a connection and long waiting time to get a refill for an empty LPG cylinder;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the objectives of PMUY?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री) श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान(

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 362 BY SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH JANUARY, 2019 REGARDING 'PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA'.

(a) & (b) Use of conventional cooking fuels such as fire wood, cow dung, coal etc. cause indoor air pollution and result in adverse health impact on the users. Considering the difficulty faced by poor household in getting a LPG connection on account of initial high cost of getting a connection and to promote use of clean cooking fuel by poor households, Government launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala (PMUY) through which a deposit free LPG connection is given to a poor family. Under PMUY, 8 crore poor families are being provided with LPG connections and so far 6 crore connections have been released. In order to address the issue of easy access and availability of LPG to poor families living especially in rural areas, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have undertaken massive LPG network expansion drive in recent years. From April 2014 onwards, more than eight thousand new distributorships have been added by OMCs and nearly three thousand distributorships are at various stages of commissioning. OMCs have informed that so far beneficiaries of Ujjwala have purchased more than 23 crore LPG refills. The number of refills purchased by the beneficiaries is indicative of the fact that users are shifting from use of Biomass to LPG for cooking purposes. The beneficiaries of PMUY also receive subsidy through PAHAL scheme.

(c) The important steps taken to achieve the objective of adaption and use of LPG by poor households, sustained basis include :

- (i) Relaxation in eligibility criteria by including all left out poor families.
- (ii) Prospective PMUY beneficiary has the options to take LPG connection with either 14.2 kg cylinder or 5 kg. Moreover, the existing PMUY beneficiary has been given an option to opt for a double 5 kg cylinder connection instead of 14.2 kg connection.
- (iii) Launching of Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat to sensitise the rural LPG users on subjects like safe usage of LPG.
- (iv) Audio visual media campaign on advantages of use of LPG.
- (v) SMS campaign for beneficiaries who have not comeback for refill.
- (vi) Display campaign by way of banners, standees and hoardings at public places.
- (vii) Consumer awareness activities viz. School/college student level education programmes, quizzes, drawing competitions, nukkad natak, walkathon, cyclothon etc.