

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4134
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19 DECEMBER, 2024**

Mechanism to Assess Success and Failure of PMUY

4134. Shri Sudhakar Singh:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that even the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) are unable to use the cooking gas due to high cost of refilled gas cylinder;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan of the Government to address the issue;
- (c) whether the Government has any monitoring mechanism to assess the impact of implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the current number of households still deprived of LPG connections and using traditional sources like firewood, coal and dungcakes for cooking; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the availability and accessibility of LPG at the doorsteps of rural households, particularly in remote areas?

ANSWER

**पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)**

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

(a) to (e): Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on 01.05.2016 to provide deposit free LPG connection in the name of adult woman member of poor households across the country. As on 01.12.2024, the total number of active domestic LPG consumers in India stands at 32.83 crore, which includes 10.33 crore beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). This is in addition to about 1.38 crore Domestic Piped Natural Gas connections in the country.

LPG consumption of PMUY beneficiaries is monitored on regular basis. Consumption of domestic LPG by households depends on several factors like food habits, household size, cooking habits, tradition, flavor, taste, preferences , price and availability of alternate fuels, etc.

India imports about 60% of the domestic LPG consumed. 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. Average Saudi CP (international benchmark for LPG pricing) rose by 64% (from US\$ 385/MT in July 2023 to US\$ 632 /MT in November 2024) while the effective price for Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) consumers for domestic LPG reduced in India by 44% (from Rs. 903 in August 2023 to Rs. 503 in November 2024).

Government reduced the retail selling price of domestic LPG for all consumers by Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder with effect from 30th August, 2023. Government further reduced the RSP of domestic LPG by Rs. 100 per 14.2 Kg cylinder w.e.f. 9th March, 2024. The current RSP of domestic LPG at Delhi is Rs. 803 per 14.2 Kg cylinder.

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 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 increased the targeted subsidy Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 Kg connections). After a targeted subsidy of Rs 300/cylinder to PMUY consumers, Government of India is providing 14.2 Kg LPG cylinders at an effective price of Rs.503 per cylinder (in Delhi). This is available to more than 10.33 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries, across the country.

In order to improve access to LPG across the country, various steps have been taken inter alia, including organizing campaigns for improving awareness about PMUY, organizing melas/camps to enroll and distribute connections, promotion through Out of Home (OOH) hoardings, radio jingles, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Vans etc., spreading awareness about advantages of using LPG over other conventional fuels and safe usage of LPG through LPG Panchayats, enrolment/awareness camps under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, facilitation of consumers and their families for Aadhar enrolment and opening of bank accounts for getting PMUY connections, simplification of process of getting LPG connection, online application for PMUY connection at www.pmuy.gov.in, nearest LPG distributors, Common Service Centres (CSC) etc., option of 5 Kg Double Bottle Connection (DBC), swap option from 14.2 Kg to 5 Kg,

provision for Migrant Families to avail new connection on Self-Declaration instead of Proof of Address and Ration Card. Further, OMCs are continuously commissioning new LPG Distributorships, especially in rural areas. Since the launch of PMUY scheme, OMCs have commissioned 7944 Distributorships (commissioned during 01.04.2016 to 31.10.2024) across the country, out of which 7361 (i.e. 93 %) are catering to rural areas. The steadily rising consumption of domestic LPG by PMUY consumers indicative of growing acceptance of LPG by rural households, who comprise over 80% of PMUY consumers. Per Capita Consumption of PMUY households has increased from 3.01 refills (in terms of 14.2 Kg domestic LPG cylinders) in 2019-20 to 3.95 in 2023-24 to 4.34(on annualised basis) in 2024-25, upto November 2024.

OMCs launched a “Basic Safety campaign” in March 2024 under the theme “Khushiyan Ab Teen Guna” with the objective of reaching domestic LPG customers. The campaign is 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 has achieved significant progress with over 8.0 crore free basic safety checks conducted without any cost to consumer and more than 3.33 crore LPG hoses replaced at discounted rates till 30th October 2024. Additionally, audio-visual (AV) materials are being 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 are also being shared across social media platforms to maximize reach and impact.

LPG consumers including PMUY beneficiaries can book a refill by various methods including Interactive Voice Response System(IVRS), Short Message Service(SMS), Whatsapp, calling directly on the phone of distributor, e-commerce platforms, OMC mobile applications, OMCs web-portals etc. These various options provide enhanced user accessibility for seamless and hassle-free booking of LPG refills.

All distributors, except Durgam Kshetriya Vitraaks, are under instructions to make home delivery of LPG cylinders in their area of operation without any additional charges.
