

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1390
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th February, 2025**

Beneficiaries under PMUY in Tamil Nadu

1390. Shri Malaiyarasan D:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the details of the total number of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) across the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure effective distribution of LPG connections to the women belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under the scheme, particularly in rural and remote areas;
- (c) the details of the financial provisions made for the implementation of the Ujjwala Scheme in Tamil Nadu along with the progress made so far;
- (d) the impact of the Ujjwala Scheme on women's health, empowerment and environmental sustainability, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (e) whether the Government has any future targets for extending LPG coverage under the Ujjwala Scheme and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether any new initiatives or modifications are being considered to improve its implementation in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof?

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 (f): 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 has been achieved during December 2022. Further, Government approved release of additional 75 lakh connections under PMUY Scheme for the period FY 2023-24 to 2025-26 which has already been achieved during July 2024. As on 01.01.2025, there are 10.33 crore LPG connections under PMUY scheme, including 41 lakh connections in the state of Tamil Nadu.

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, availability of alternate fuels etc.

No State/UT/District wise allocation of funds is done under PMUY. Since the launch of PMUY till financial year 2022-23, Government has been bearing an expenditure of up to Rs. 1,600 per PMUY connection for Security Deposit (SD) of Cylinder, Pressure Regulator, Suraksha Hose, DGCC booklet and installation charges. From financial year 2023-24, this expenditure has been increased to Rs. 2,200 per connection for 14.2 Kg Single Bottle Connection/ 5 Kg Double Bottle Connection & Rs. 1,300 per connection for 5 Kg Single Bottle Connection.

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. No future targets for extending LPG coverage under PMUY have been set.

In order to improve access to LPG across the country including in the state of Tamil Nadu, 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. 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 4.40 (on annualised basis) in 2024-25, upto December 2024.

Various independent studies and reports 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.
