

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5488
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd April, 2025

PMUY in Gorakhpur

†5488. Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the number of families in Gorakhpur district received free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY);
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely refill availability to Ujjwala beneficiaries in the said districts;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure the timely refilling and distribution of LPG cylinders in the district;
- (d) whether the Government has faced any challenges in implementing the said scheme in remote areas of Gorakhpur, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the impact of the said scheme on improving the health and quality of life of women and reducing indoor air pollution in Gorakhpur; and
- (f) the details of total amount allocated and utilized under this scheme in Gorakhpur?

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 was also 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 01.03.2025, there are 10.33 crore PMUY connections across the country including 2.94 lakh in Gorakhpur district.

To ensure the timely availability of LPG refills, 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 different options provide enhanced user accessibility for seamless and hassle-free booking of LPG refills.

Implementation of PMUY across the country including in Gorakhpur is monitored closely by the Government. Difficulties in implementation were mainly related to the identification of households, difficult terrain, low awareness on usefulness of LPG etc. To improve access of LPG in rural and remote areas, OMCs have commissioned 7959 Distributorships (commissioned during 01.04.2016 to 31.12.2024) across the country, out of which 7373 (i.e. 93 %) [Rurban- 1024, Gramin- 4974, Durgam Kshetriya Vitraaks and Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak (DKV+RGGLV) - 1375] are catering to rural areas. Further, LPG coverage in the country has improved from 62% in April 2016 to near saturation now. To create awareness about the scheme and also to address any issue pertaining to LPG usage, OMCs regularly conduct LPG Panchayats for the customers. The Government has taken several steps to encourage better consumption of LPG by PMUY beneficiaries, which include deferment of loan recovery from subsidy amount, Swap option from 14.2 kg to 5 Kg to reduce upfront cash outgo, option of 5 Kg Double Bottle Connection, Conducting Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat to convince the beneficiaries to use LPG on sustained basis, mass awareness camps etc. As a result of these efforts, LPG coverage in the country has improved from 62% in April 2016 to near saturation now.

No State/UT/District wise allocation of funds is done under PMUY. Since the launch of PMUY till financial year 2022-23, Government has borne 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 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 to 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).

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.

Further, as a result of various steps taken by Government to improve access and affordability of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers, per capita consumption of PMUY beneficiaries (in terms of no. of 14.2 kg LPG cylinders taken per year) has increased from 3.68 (FY 2021-22) to 3.95 in FY 2023-24, and 4.43 in FY 2024-25 (as on 01.03. 2025).
