

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2047
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st July, 2025

AVAILABILITY OF CNG AND PNG INFRASTRUCTURE

2047. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:
SHRI CHHOTELAL:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that various parts of the country particularly rural and backward regions continue to face challenges such as limited availability of CNG and PNG infrastructure, delay in new gas connections, rising prices of petroleum products including petrol and diesel, which directly affect the common people especially women and poor households;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken to improve distribution networks in remote areas, expand infrastructure for CNG and PNG, promote ethanol blending to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, stabilize prices of petrol and diesel and encourage electric mobility infrastructure to support clean energy transition; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
(श्री सुरेशगोपी)

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

(a) to (c) Providing affordable and clean fuel for cooking and mobility is a key priority of Government. To this end, various initiatives have been undertaken to promote the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Piped Natural Gas (PNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Ethanol, Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), and Electric Mobility.

Providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections and establishment of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations is part of development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Networks and the same is carried out by the entities authorized by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) as per their Minimum Work Programme (MWP).

After completion of 12/12A CGD bidding round, PNGRB has authorized entities for the development of CGD network in 307 Geographical Areas (GAs), covering almost 100% of the country's mainland area (excluding islands) including rural and backward regions. As on 31.05.2025, various CGD entities have provided more than 1.50 Crores domestic PNG connections and commissioned more than 8,000 CNG Stations against the Minimum Work Programme (MWP) of about 12.6 Crores domestic PNG connections and 18,336 CNG stations across the country (to be achieved by 2034).

The Government has taken various steps to ensure the availability of natural gas to CNG (Transport) and PNG (Domestic) sector, which includes allocating domestic gas on priority

basis to CNG(T)/PNG(D), diverting domestic gas from non-priority sectors to meet the requirement for CNG(T)/PNG(D) sector, expansion of CGD network, expansion of National Gas Grid Pipeline, setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiatives to promote Bio-CNG, etc. Government has also notified that gas produced from discoveries in deep water, ultra-deep water and high-pressure high temperature areas is prioritized for supply to the CNG(T)/PNG(D) sectors.

With an objective to provide deposit free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in May, 2016. As on 01.07.2025, there are 10.33 crore PMUY connections across the country.

In order to create awareness about the scheme and also to address any issue pertaining to LPG usage, various steps have been taken inter alia, including organizing campaigns for improving awareness about PMUY, organizing melas/campsto enrol 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. Government has taken several steps to encourage 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, per capita consumption of PMUYbeneficiaries (in terms of no. of 14.2 kg LPG cylinders taken per year) has increased from 3.68 (FY 2021-22) to 4.47 in FY 2024-25.

To make LPG more affordable to PMUY consumers and ensure sustained usage of LPG by them, Government started a targeted subsidy ofRs.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. 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 ofRs.553 per cylinder (in Delhi). This is available to more than 10.33 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries, across the country.

As of July 01, 2025, there are a total of 25,573 LPG distributorships across the country, out of which 17,646 are serving rural areas. These are served through 213 LPG bottling plants of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) located across the country. In order to improve access of LPG in rural and remote areas, OMCs have commissioned 7997 distributorships, during 01.04.2016 to 30.06.2025 across the country, out of which 7403 (i.e. 93 %) [Rurban- 1033, Gramin- 4991, Durgam Kshetriya Vitraaks and Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak (DKV+RGGLV) - 1379] are catering to rural areas.

Prices of petrol and diesel are market determined and Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel. The prices of petroleum products in the country are linked to the price of respective products in the international market. India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements. Crude oil prices (Indian basket) increased from \$55/bbl (March 2015) to \$113/bbl (March 2022) and further to \$116/bbl (June 2022) and have continued to fluctuate due to various geopolitical and market factors.

Domestically, petrol and diesel prices have come down to ₹94.77 and ₹87.67 per litre respectively (Delhi prices) as a result of various steps taken by Government and PSU OMCs. Central excise duty was reduced by the Government by a total of ₹13 per litre and ₹16 per litre on petrol and diesel respectively in two tranches in November 2021, and May 2022, which was fully passed on to consumers. Some State Governments also reduced state VAT rates to provide relief to consumers. In March 2024, OMCs reduced the retail prices of petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre each. In April 2025, Excise duty on petrol and diesel was increased by ₹2 per litre each, but this was not passed on to consumers.

OMCs recently carried out an intra-state freight rationalization. This has benefited consumers located at remote areas, far from Petroleum Oil & Lubricants (POL) Depots in the form of reduced Petrol and Diesel prices in remote parts within the states. This initiative has also reduced the difference between the maximum and minimum retail prices of Petrol or Diesel within a state.

Government has also taken several steps to insulate common citizens from high international prices which inter-alia include diversifying the crude import basket, invoking the provisions of Universal Service Obligation to ensure availability of petrol and diesel in domestic market, increasing the blending of ethanol in petrol etc.

To reduce the dependency on fossil fuels, Government is promoting blending of ethanol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme wherein Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell petrol blended with ethanol, as a green and renewable fuel, ethanol significantly contributes to environmental sustainability, reduces dependence on imported crude oil, conserves foreign exchange, and supports the domestic agriculture sector. In addition, Government is also promoting alternate fuels which inter-alia include Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Green Hydrogen and Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), etc. for reduction in green house gas emissions as well as reduction in import dependence of fossil fuels.

Further, the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 provides a roadmap for the adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles in India, aiming to enhance national fuel security and promote environment friendly transportation. As part of NEMMP 2020, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is implementing the various schemes viz. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in India (PLI-Auto), PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, PM e-BusSewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) Scheme, Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI) on pan-India basis to strengthen electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem and accelerate adoption of electric vehicle in the country. Government is also laying emphasis on setting up of EV charging stations. As on 01.01.2025 the OMCs have established 4523 EV charging stations(EVCS) at their retail outlets (ROs) under FAME-II scheme. In addition, they have also established 20,035 EVCS at their ROs from their own funds.
