

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3253**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

**Expansion of Ujjwala LPG Connections**

3253. Smt. Shambhavi:  
Shri Rajesh Verma:  
Shri Mukeshkumar Chandrakaant Dalal:  
Dr. Lata Wankhede:

**पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री**

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

- (a) the details of the number of new LPG connections targeted to be provided under the Ujjwala scheme including plans to distribute twenty five lakh additional connections to eligible households;
- (b) the details of the criteria used to identify beneficiaries and ensure inclusion of low-income and underserved households;
- (c) the details of the measures being taken to ensure timely delivery, installation and sustained usage of LPG connections among new beneficiaries;
- (d) whether awareness campaigns and support mechanisms are being provided to encourage safe usage and refills, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same; and
- (e) the manner in which this expansion aligns with broader Government objectives of reducing indoor pollution, improving health outcomes and enhancing energy access equity?

**ANSWER**

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

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

(a): 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 was completed during July 2024. Government has recently approved the release of 25 lakh additional LPG

connections under PMUY during Financial Year 2025-26 to clear pending applications and achieve saturation of LPG access in the country.

(b): Adult woman from a poor household who doesn't have an existing LPG connection in her family may apply under the scheme by submitting the KYC application form and Deprivation Declaration along with the required documents, to establish eligibility in line with the prescribed criteria. As on 01.03.2026, there were about 10.56 crore PMUY connections across the country.

(c): 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 and OMCs web-portals. These different options provide enhanced user accessibility for seamless and hassle-free booking of LPG refills.

As on 01.03.2026, there are a total of 25,605 LPG distributorships operating across the country, out of which 17,677 distributorships are serving rural areas. These are served through 214 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 8037 distributorships, during 01.04.2016 to 28.02.2026 across the country, out of which 7444 (i.e. 93 %) are catering to rural areas.

(d): In order to encourage sustained usage and address the issue of low refill consumption among PMUY beneficiaries, 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 and Education and Communication (IEC) Vans 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, 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.

Further, a "Basic Safety Check" campaign was organised during March, 2024 to December, 2024 under the theme "Khushiyan Ab Teen Guna" with the objective of reaching the doorsteps of domestic LPG customers. The campaign was 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 achieved significant progress with over 12.12 crore free basic safety checks conducted at customer premises without any cost to consumer and more than 4.65 crore LPG hoses replaced at discounted rates. Additionally, audio-visual (AV) materials were 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 were also shared across social media platforms to maximize reach and impact.

To make LPG more affordable to PMUY consumers and ensure sustained usage of LPG by PMUY consumers, for FY 2025-26, Government is providing targeted subsidy of Rs.300/- per 14.2 kg cylinder for upto 9 refills of 14.2 Kg cylinder (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 Kg connections) to the PMUY consumers. As a result of various steps taken by Government to improve access and affordability of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers, Per Connection 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 4.83 in FY 2025-26 (Prorated based on consumption during Apr-Jan 26).

(e): PMUY scheme has had a significant positive impact on the lives of rural households, especially women and families in rural and remote areas including 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.

A study conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) highlighted that in 2019 the estimated annual average ambient air quality (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) levels of major Indian states were in the range of 5–16 µg/m<sup>3</sup> under the business-as-usual scenario (without PMUY), whereas with the implementation of PMUY, the levels were estimated to be in the range of 4–8 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This indicates that PMUY has a positive implication for both household and ambient air pollution.

Further, an evaluation of PMUY conducted by IIT Kanpur across six states found that indoor air quality during cooking hours were nearly twice as good in households using LPG cylinders compared to low-LPG and traditional chulha-using households. The analysis of the PMUY survey carried out as part of this evaluation clearly demonstrates the health benefits of LPG usage under PMUY, especially for primary cooking persons.

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