

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.- 144
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2024

COVERAGE OF PMUY

144 Dr. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 10.5 crore LPG connections have been released under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as on 31st January, 2024 and if so, the details thereof, State -wise;
- (b) the objective of launching PMUY;
- (c) the details of strategies and endeavours that have been employed to augment LPG coverage in the country through PMUY; and
- (d) whether 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 and if so, the details of key benefits?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana(PMUY) was launched on 01.05.2016 to release deposit free LPG connection in the name of adult woman member of poor households across the country. The primary objective of the PMUY is to provide access to clean cooking fuel LPG to such poor households thereby protecting their health by reducing the serious health hazards associated with use of conventional cooking fuel such as firewood, coal, cow dung etc. which cause severe indoor household air pollution. Use of LPG as cooking fuel frees women from the drudgery of collecting firewood, reduces time spent on cooking and prevents deforestation.

As on 31.01.2024, 10.15 Crore PMUY connections have been released across the country. State/UT-wise details of LPG connections released under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) are at Annexure.

(c) In order to augment LPG coverage in the country various steps have been taken inter alia, including organizing campaigns for promotion of 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 7905 Distributorships across the country, out of which 7325 (i.e. 93 %) are catering to rural areas (commissioned during 01.04.2016 to 30.06.2024). As a result of these efforts, the per capita consumption for PMUY beneficiaries has improved to 3.95 refills per year. Further, LPG coverage in the country has improved from 62% in April 2016 to near saturation now.

(d) 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) The use of LPG for cooking reduces the risk of accidents related to open fires, which is particularly important for the safety of women and children. Accidental burns and injuries associated with traditional cooking methods are minimized, contributing to a safer household environment.

(v) 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.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 144 to be answered on 22.07.2024 regarding " Coverage of PMUY" asked by Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:

State/UT-wise number of connections released under PMUY schemes on 31.01.2024

State/UT	Total PMUY Customers
Andaman & Nicobar	13,762
Andhra Pradesh	8,89,279
Arunachal Pradesh	53,046
Assam	49,29,656
Bihar	1,14,67,201
Chandigarh	1,512
Chhattisgarh	36,78,126
D&NH and D&D	16,351
Delhi	2,26,141
Goa	1,896
Gujarat	42,36,010
Haryana	10,60,214
Himachal Pradesh	1,47,825
Jammu & Kashmir	12,62,575
Jharkhand	38,34,263
Karnataka	40,78,506
Kerala	3,79,738
Ladakh	11,089
Lakshadweep	352
Madhya Pradesh	86,34,681
Maharashtra	51,54,319
Manipur	2,18,019
Meghalaya	2,99,057
Mizoram	34,981
Nagaland	1,16,641
Odisha	54,95,342
Pondicherry	18,539
Punjab	13,41,434
Rajasthan	71,67,678
Sikkim	18,693
Tamil Nadu	40,26,439
Telangana	11,64,106
Tripura	3,11,163
Uttar Pradesh	1,83,82,149
Uttarakhand	5,23,100
West Bengal	1,23,71,324
Total	10,15,65,207

Source: IOCL on industry basis