

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.- 1577
ANSWERED ON 05/08/2024

Beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana in Jharkhand

1577 # Shri Aditya Prasad:

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

- (a) the details of the aims and objectives of the Ujjwala Yojana across the country including Jharkhand;
- (b) whether the consumers of Ujjwala Yojana are facing difficulties in continuing with the scheme;
- (c) if so, the extent to which Ujjwala Yojana has been successful in achieving its objectives in the country so far; and
- (d) the State/Union Territory-wise number of beneficiaries of the Ujjwala Yojana, including Jharkhand along with the number of such beneficiaries out of the total ones who are getting their LPG cylinders refilled regularly?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on 01.05.2016 to release deposit free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country. The target to release 8 crore connections was achieved in September, 2019. To cover the remaining poor households, PMUY phase-2 (Ujjwala 2.0) was launched in August 2021 and till January 2023, 1.60 crore Ujjwala 2.0 connections had been released. Further, in view of fresh requests, in September 2023, Government approved release of additional 75 lakh PMUY connections. OMCs have completed the release of these 75 lakh PMUY connections as of 8th July 2024. As on 30.07.2024, there are 10.33 crore LPG connections under PMUY including 2.35 crore under Ujjwala 2.0. More than 105 crore refills have been taken by PMUY beneficiaries in the last 3 years alone.

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. 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, price, availability of alternate fuels etc.

To further improve access and availability of LPG refills, 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.

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.

State/UT-wise details of LPG connections released under PMUY including Jharkhand are at **Annexure-A**.

(d): The details of States/UT-wise number of PMUY beneficiaries (as on 31.03.2024) along with the details of beneficiaries who have taken at least one refill during FY 2023-24 including Jharkhand are at **Annexure-B**.

Annexure – A

Annexure referred to in part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1577 answered on 05.08.2024 regarding "Beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana in Jharkhand" asked by Shri Aditya Prasad:

State/UT-wise number of connections released under PMUY scheme as on 01.07.2024

State/UT	Total no. of PMUY Consumers
Andaman & Nicobar	13,824
Andhra Pradesh	9,69,282
Arunachal Pradesh	53,794
Assam	50,97,006
Bihar	1,16,27,899
Chandigarh	2,027
Chhattisgarh	37,88,873
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	17,861
Delhi	2,57,774
Goa	1,957
Gujarat	43,07,900
Haryana	11,14,647
Himachal Pradesh	1,50,817
Jammu & Kashmir	12,69,989
Jharkhand	38,95,544
Karnataka	41,47,825
Kerala	3,87,869
Ladakh	11,085
Lakshadweep	361
Madhya Pradesh	88,36,653
Maharashtra	52,17,632
Manipur	2,24,921
Meghalaya	3,16,589
Mizoram	35,989
Nagaland	1,22,123
Odisha	55,49,341
Pondicherry	19,338
Punjab	13,59,364
Rajasthan	73,80,647
Sikkim	19,904
Tamil Nadu	41,00,279
Telangana	11,85,753
Tripura	3,15,418
Uttar Pradesh	1,85,94,511
Uttarakhand	5,30,136
West Bengal	1,23,75,656

Source : IOCL on industry basis

Annexure referred to in part (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1577 answered on 05.08.2024 regarding "Beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana in Jharkhand" asked by Shri Aditya Prasad:

State/UT	Number of Connections released under PMUY as on 31.03.2024	Number of beneficiaries taken at least one refill during FY 2023-24
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13,827	12,786
Andhra Pradesh	9,68,332	8,67,521
Arunachal Pradesh	53,789	44,084
Assam	50,92,071	38,11,520
Bihar	1,16,19,851	1,02,25,760
Chandigarh	2,025	1,926
Chhattisgarh	37,85,197	25,22,454
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	17,812	17,363
Delhi	2,56,931	2,46,538
Goa	1,956	1,884
Gujarat	43,04,694	39,58,700
Haryana	11,12,992	10,55,352
Himachal Pradesh	1,50,837	1,36,387
Jammu & Kashmir	12,69,743	10,82,622
Jharkhand	38,95,366	29,35,533
Karnataka	41,48,108	38,57,842
Kerala	3,87,761	3,52,031
Ladakh	11,089	8,778
Lakshadweep	365	341
Madhya Pradesh	88,32,154	72,23,788
Maharashtra	52,15,785	47,96,545
Manipur	2,24,999	1,97,074
Meghalaya	3,16,624	2,49,336
Mizoram	36,031	32,069
Nagaland	1,22,199	1,02,290
Odisha	55,47,343	46,17,453
Puducherry	19,322	18,293
Punjab	13,59,705	12,66,083
Rajasthan	73,77,084	68,17,478
Sikkim	19,911	18,041
Tamil Nadu	41,01,978	37,49,244
Telangana	11,85,624	10,52,642
Tripura	3,15,462	1,94,239
Uttar Pradesh	1,85,92,478	1,70,71,006
Uttarakhand	5,30,167	4,71,746
West Bengal	1,23,76,395	1,02,01,066

Source: Indian Oil Corporation Limited on industry basis