

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd April, 2025

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in West Bengal

5493. Shri Saumitra Khan:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the number of Below Poverty Line/Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe families covered under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) especially in West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed that the beneficiaries of PMUY scheme are not interested in refilling their gas cylinders due to LPG price hike/lack of funds;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government thereto including steps taken for reducing the price of LPG cylinders or providing subsidy to the said categories, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has been able to achieve the objectives set under PMUY; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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 (e): Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in May, 2016 to provide deposit free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country. LPG connection under PMUY is released in the name of adult women of the poor households, provided no LPG connection exists in the name of any family member of the household and fulfilling other terms and conditions. Households belonging to Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) list or from seven other categories such as Scheduled Caste(SC) Households, Scheduled Tribe(ST) Households, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana (Gramin), Beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest Dwellers, Resident of islands/ river islands, Tea garden / ex-tea garden workers or poor households not covered under the above categories by submitting 14 point declaration are eligible for a PMUY connection.

As on 01.03.2025, there are 10.33 crore PMUY connections across the country including 1.24 crore connections in the State of West Bengal. As on 01.03.2025, there are 3.13 crore beneficiaries in SC, ST and SC/ST category including 36.41 lakh in State of West Bengal.

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. PMUY has majorly contributed to improve LPG coverage in the country from 62% in April 2016 to near saturation now.

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, tradition, flavor, taste, preferences, price, availability of alternate fuels etc.

India imports about 60% of the domestic LPG consumed. Price of LPG in the country is linked to its price in the international market. While the average Saudi CP (international benchmark for LPG pricing) rose by 63% (from US\$ 385/MT in July 2023 to US\$ 629/MT in February 2025), the effective price for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) consumers for domestic LPG was reduced by 44% (from Rs. 903 in August 2023 to Rs. 503 in February 2025).

Government reduced the retail selling price of domestic LPG for all consumers by Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder with effect from 30th August, 2023. Government further reduced the RSP of domestic LPG by Rs. 100 per 14.2 Kg cylinder w.e.f. 9th March, 2024. The current RSP of domestic LPG at Delhi is Rs. 803 per 14.2 Kg cylinder.

Since the launch of PMUY till financial year 2022-23, Government has been bearing 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 been 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. State/UT-wise details of LPG connections under PMUY are at **Annexure- A**.

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 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). This is available to more than 10.33 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries, across the country.

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 3.01 (FY 2019-20) to 3.95 in FY 2023-24 and 4.43 in FY 2024-25 (as on 01.03. 2025).

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.

Annexure- A

Annexure referred to in part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5493 to be answered on 03.04.2025 regarding “PMUY Beneficiaries” by Shri Saumitra Khan.

**State/UT-wise details of connections released under PMUY Scheme –
As on 01.03.2025**

State/UT	Number of PMUY Customers
Andaman & Nicobar Island	13,824
Andhra Pradesh	9,73,250
Arunachal Pradesh	53,795
Assam	50,97,581
Bihar	1,16,28,783
Chandigarh	2,027
Chhattisgarh	38,01,474
Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	17,792
Delhi	2,59,674
Goa	1,955
Gujarat	43,08,665
Haryana	11,15,235
Himachal Pradesh	1,50,742
Jammu & Kashmir	12,69,741
Jharkhand	38,95,189
Karnataka	41,46,904
Kerala	3,87,787
Ladakh	11,086
Lakshadweep	370
Madhya Pradesh	88,47,087
Maharashtra	52,17,601
Manipur	2,24,926
Meghalaya	3,17,155
Mizoram	36,006
Nagaland	1,22,147
Odisha	55,49,512
Puducherry	19,383
Punjab	13,59,442
Rajasthan	73,81,514
Sikkim	19,872
Tamil Nadu	41,00,025
Telangana	11,84,203
Tripura	3,16,420
Uttar Pradesh	1,85,94,200
Uttarakhand	5,30,161
West Bengal	1,23,75,281

Source: Indian Oil Corporation Limited on Industry basis