



# PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA



**Universal Access to Clean Fuel  
Freedom from Smoke**



*I was born in a very humble abode where there were no windows and only one door. My mother used firewood for cooking. Sometimes, the smoke was so dense that we could not even see our mother when she served us food. This is how I ate in my childhood. So, I have experienced and lived the pain of these mothers and children.*

*I want to free these mothers from such a painful life. And that is why we resolved to provide clean cooking fuel to 8 crore families.*

**Narendra Modi**  
**Prime Minister of India**



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## Introduction

The daily act of cooking has been a major health hazard for millions of women in India, especially in rural areas, due to the use of traditional fuels.

Till 2014, about 100 million households in India were deprived of clean LPG fuel and used traditional biomass fuels such firewood, dried cow dung, agricultural waste, charcoal etc. as cooking fuel. The toxic smoke emitted by these fuels contains particulate matter and harmful chemicals that are harmful to eyes and lungs, causing acute and chronic respiratory illness, such as pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. The smoke also contains carcinogenic elements causing lung cancer. Apart from women, children also suffered from this harmful kitchen smoke.

**According to Late Professor Kirk Smith\*, Professor of Global Environmental Health, University of California, Berkeley, inhaling this harmful smoke is equivalent to smoking 400 cigarettes per hour.**

Women and children also had to walk afar to collect firewood in remote and secluded places, which was not only a strenuous task but also risky from the point of view of personal safety.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched to protect Indian women from this drudgery and make their lives healthier.



\*<https://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2013/01/18/tackling-the-worlds-forgotten-killer/>

## Need for PMUY

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched with the aim to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with clean cooking fuel, so that they don't have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens.

The PMUY scheme was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi from Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Public Sector

Oil Marketing Companies were initially given a target of providing deposit-free LPG connection to adult woman members of 5 Crore BPL households by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Rs. 8000 Crore was allocated for the scheme.

The scheme target was subsequently revised to 8 Crore LPG connections, with an additional budgetary provision of Rs. 4800 Crore.



**Release of PMUY Connection by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.**

## Financial Support Under the Scheme

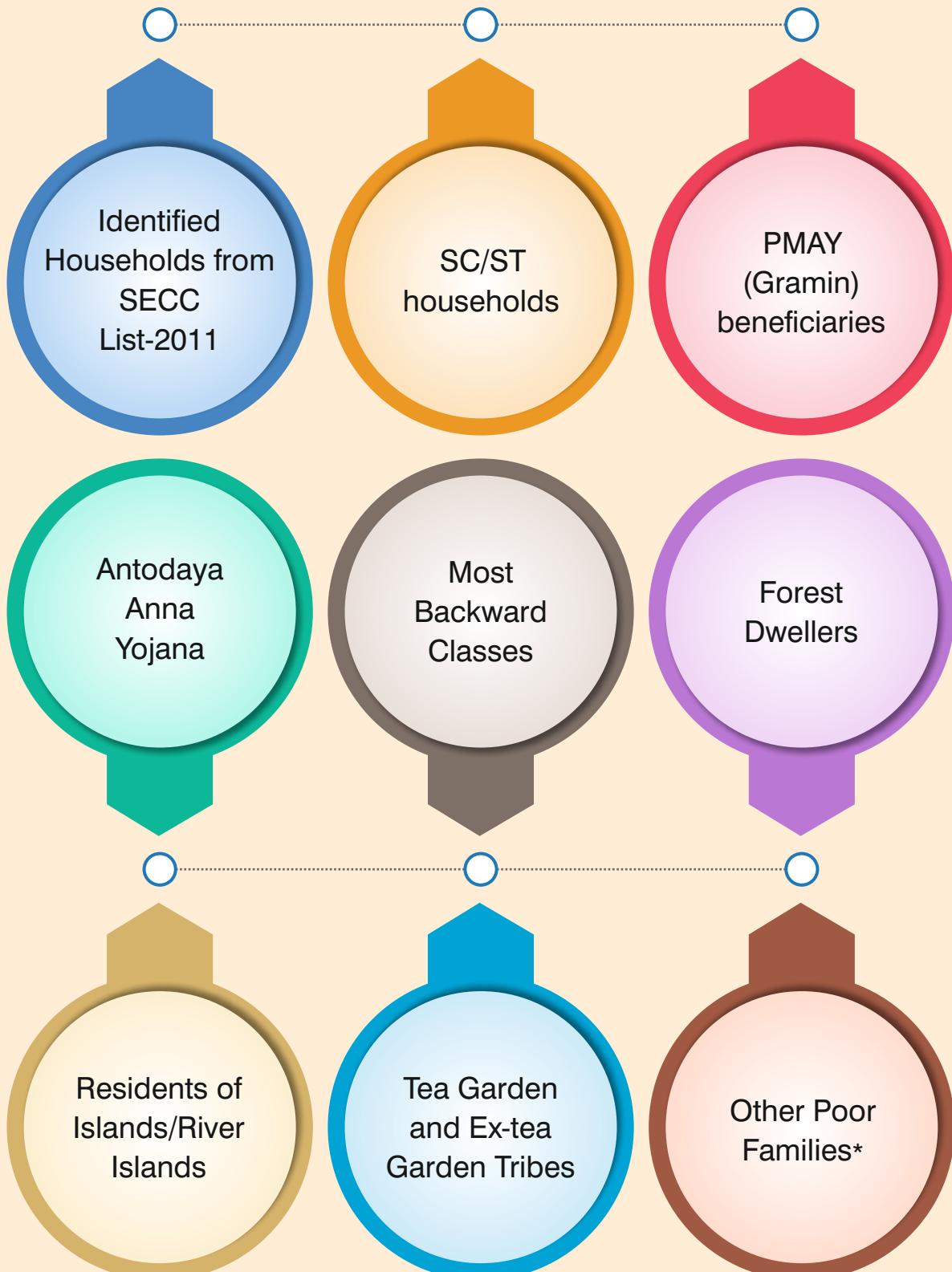
One of the constraints of using LPG on a sustained basis was the high upfront cost. To ease this constraint, a cash assistance of Rs. 1600 per connection was provided to the beneficiaries by Government of India (GoI) which covered the cost of a cylinder, pressure regulator, LPG hose, consumer card

and Installation charges for availing the connection. Besides this, an option for loan was also extended to the beneficiaries to cover the cost of stove and first refill. A total of 6.24 Cr Households (78%) availed the loan facility.

### Details of Cash Assistance provided per connection released under the scheme

Item	14.2 kg Cylinder (Rs.)	5 kg Cylinder (Rs.)
Security Deposit of Cylinder	1,250.00	800.00
Security Deposit of PR (Pressure Regulator)	150.00	150.00
LPG Hose	100.00	100.00
Domestic Gas Consumer Card (DGCC)	25.00	25.00
Installation Charges	75.00	75.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,600.00</b>	<b>1,150.00</b>

## Beneficiaries of PMUY



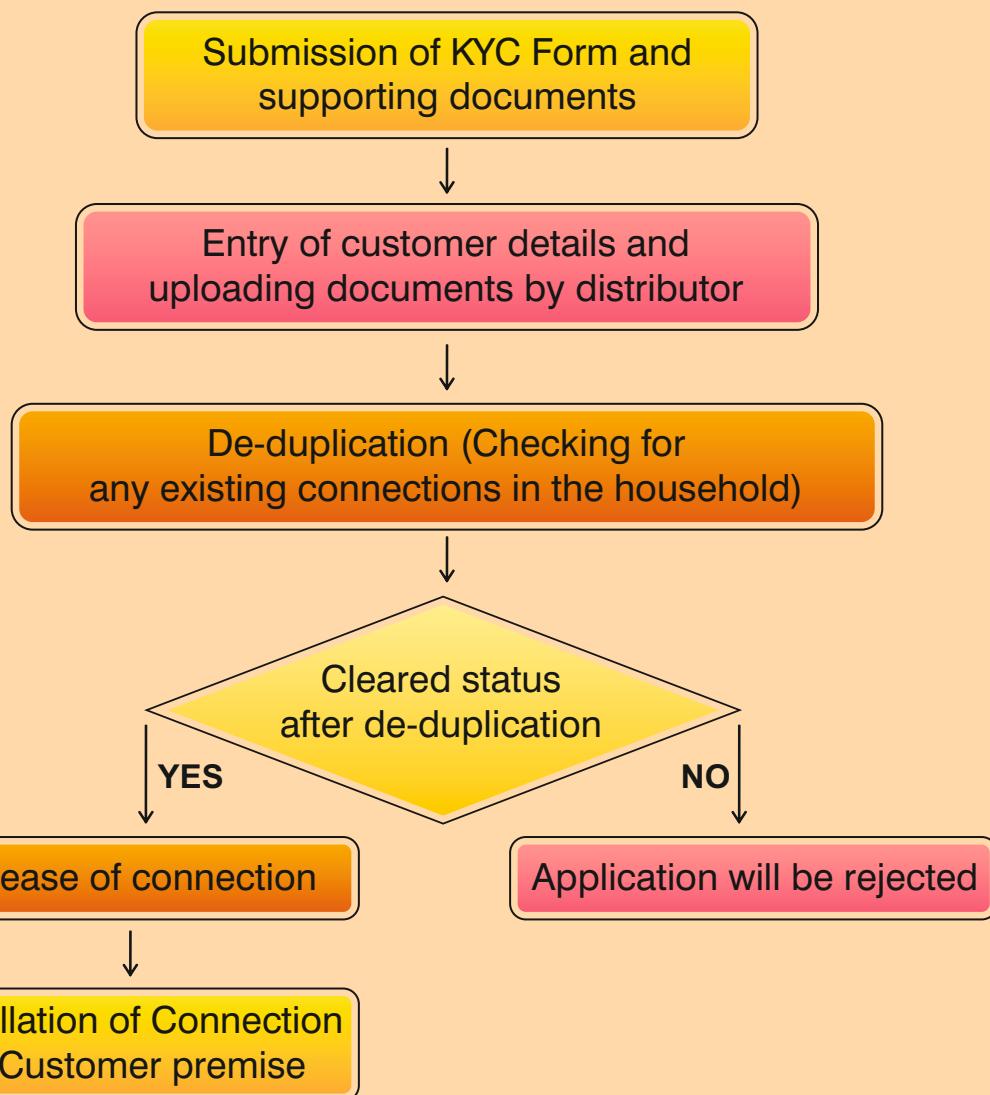
\* By Submission of a 14-point declaration

# Enrollment Process

A woman from a BPL household, who does not have LPG connection in her household, can apply for new connections under PMUY by filling the Know Your Customer (KYC) application and submitting the same to the nearest

distributor. While submitting the application form, the beneficiary has to submit Proof of Address, Ration Card, Aadhaar number and Bank Account details.

## How to get LPG connection under **PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA**



## GOL Outreach Program

Reaching out to the deprived families was a mammoth task as they were mostly residing in the rural and far-flung areas. The challenge was to correctly identify the beneficiary so that the benefits reach the deprived households. The LPG distributors and the field force of OMCs worked in close coordination

to identify the beneficiaries and enroll them under the scheme. Besides, a district nodal officer was appointed by Oil Marketing Companies in each district to monitor the progress of the scheme at grassroots and ensure smooth implementation.



Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, handing over LPG connection to 5<sup>th</sup> Crore PMUY beneficiary in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Former Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

## LPG Panchayat

Since the PMUY beneficiaries were mostly first-time users of LPG, they were apprehensive about the safe handling of LPG at their homes. Hence, creating awareness about safe use of LPG amongst PMUY beneficiaries was of primary importance.

LPG Panchayats were envisioned to discuss safe handling of LPG, and benefits of using LPG over traditional fuels. Designed as community

meetings, the Panchayats served as platforms for LPG consumers to interact with each other, share experiences, and promote mutual learning.

It brings together various stakeholders from the LPG ecosystem such as OMC officials, distributors, mechanics, deliverymen, etc. LPG Panchayats provide opportunity for consumers to interact with them and share their questions and apprehensions.



**Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, interacts with PMUY beneficiaries.**

# Key Themes addressed by LPG Panchayats:

## Health

According to WHO estimates, with nearly 5 lakh deaths every year, indoor air pollution accounts for the highest number of deaths in India, after high blood pressure. Using LPG saves beneficiaries from respiratory diseases.



## Economic Cost

The burden of gathering, processing and transporting of wood as kitchen fuel generally falls on women and girl children, contributing to drudgery. Since cooking continues to be women's responsibility primarily, they end up compromising on the time spent on housework, paid work, and leisure in order to meet the energy needs of the household. In case of young girls, this translates into poor attendance and even dropping out of school.

Using LPG saves time spent on cooking and allied activities, which when put to productive and economic use, can lead to women achieving a better economic status, both within the household and in the larger community.

## Safety

The benefits of LPG can be realized only with safe and responsible use. To avoid untoward incidents, each beneficiary is given a safety card that details the Do's and Don'ts of LPG use.



## Environment

Using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood and coal puts immense pressure on the environment as well. The soot and smoke produced by bio-mass is damaging. Use of bio-mass also contributes to deforestation and overall degradation of the environment.

## Empowerment

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched with the aim of providing women their right: right to clean energy, and right to a life free from drudgery, smoke & ill health. Since its launch, the scheme has been slowly and steadily changing the lives of millions of women across the country.



## Achievement of PMUY

The 8<sup>th</sup> crore PMUY connection was handed over by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019. This was a momentous achievement for the PSU

Oil Marketing Companies, as the target was achieved in a record time of 40 months, much ahead of its deadline.



Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, handing over LPG connection to the 8<sup>th</sup> Crore beneficiary at Aurangabad on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019



**Gram Swaraj  
Abhiyaan**



Total Villages  
Covered - 63,974



Total Connections  
Issued - 47,41,603

## Improvement in LPG Coverage

With the release of 8 Crore LPG connections under the scheme in such a short duration of time, the LPG coverage in the country has also increased significantly.

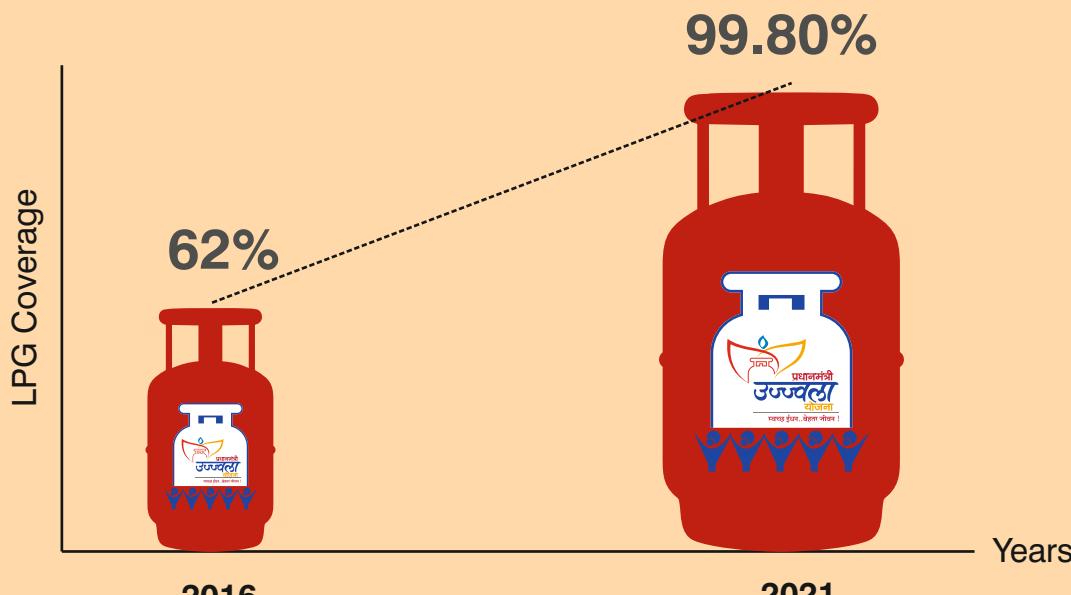
The LPG coverage in India has improved to 99.8% as on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, as compared to 62% as on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

PMUY has transformed the lives of 8 crore poor women in our country.

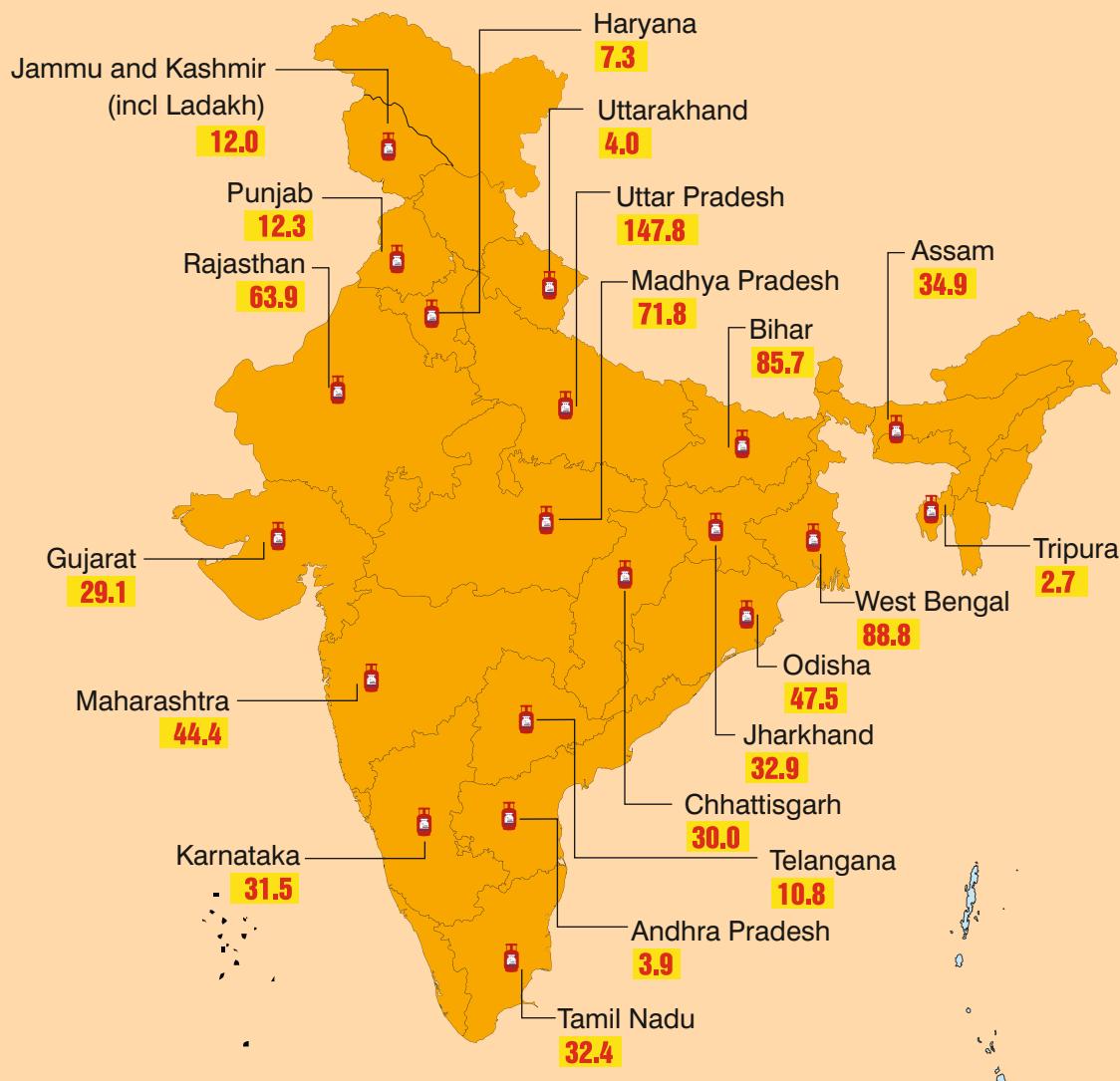
**Women in the states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan** have been the biggest beneficiaries of the smokeless kitchen initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.



### LPG Coverage Across India



## Top 20 States with maximum Connections Released under the scheme



Number in Lakhs

8 करोड  
लाभार्थियों  
का लक्ष्य हुआ पूरा

7 सितंबर 2019



## **Addressing Affordability - Accessibility - Adaptability**

The objective of providing clean energy to PMUY beneficiaries relied on three pillars – Affordability, Accessibility and Adaptability.

**Affordability :** As PMUY beneficiaries hail from low socio-economic background, the high cost of LPG refill is often a deterrent for purchasing LPG refills. To ensure sustained use of LPG, the following initiatives were undertaken:

1. Deferment of loan recovery through subsidy
2. Refill Option with 5 kg cylinder to reduce the upfront cost of the refill.
3. Free Refill Scheme option under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package

**Accessibility:** PMUY beneficiaries mostly hail from rural and remote areas, at a considerable distance from their

LPG distributor. For ensuring better accessibility, following steps were taken:

1. Commissioning of more than 6000 new LPG distributors
2. Booking facilities through Common Service.
3. Augmentation of LPG Bottling Capacity
4. Commissioning of Additional Bottling Plants

**Adaptability:** Mass campaigns were undertaken to improve awareness about the benefits of the scheme and of using LPG.

SHGs/ SDPs/ NGOs were engaged to carry out extensive door- to-door campaign in the rural areas which further promoted the adoption of LPG.

## Global Recognition of The Scheme

The scheme has been applauded by the International Energy Agency (IEA), as a "major achievement" in improving the environment and health of women.

“ Providing access to LPG across India by 2020 is a major achievement. It is not an energy issue, it is an economic issue, it is a social issue ”

Fatih Birol  
IEA Executive Director

PMUY also garnered praise in a report by World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2018. The Report mentions that while air pollution levels across the world are hovering around the danger mark, there are a few countries that have taken the matter seriously and have initiated steps to tackle it.

**“While the latest data show ambient air pollution levels are still dangerously high in most parts of the world, they also show some positive progress. Countries are taking measures to tackle and reduce air pollution from particulate matter. For example, in just two years, India’s Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Scheme has provided some 37 million women living below the poverty line with free LPG connections to support them to switch to clean household energy use,”** the WHO report said.

# Impact of the Scheme

PMUY has had an enormous impact on the lives of the beneficiaries and their families. The benefits of adopting LPG often extend to subsequent generations of the families.

**Some of the tangible benefits accrued are:**

Significant direct health benefits for the families and freedom from bronchitis, asthma, influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis and other respiratory disease and infections caused by exposure to household air pollution (HAP)

Reduction in emissions of pollutants such as methane, black carbon and organic carbon released by inefficient solid fuels.

LPG has led to reduced drudgery in collection of fuel and cooking. This has opened up opportunities for alternative engagement in education, other productive labour and social activities- small business, part-time jobs, social activities, other opportunities to get financial benefits, spend quality time for family welfare and education for self/ children.

As the connections are released in the name of the women in the household, PMUY has empowered them both socially and economically.

By empowering women, PMUY has been able to bridge the gender inequality with respect to rights, access, and economic empowerment.

## Way Forward

PMUY is one of the stepping stones in the nation's journey to clean energy. The scheme has successfully freed more than 8 Crore women from the black and smoky kitchens.

Ujjwala, as it is popularly known, has now become a second name for women emancipation and empowerment.

In its relentless pursuit to free remaining women from the drudgery and smoke of unclean fuels, the government has now announced the second phase of Ujjwala. An additional One Crore PMUY connections will be released under "Ujjwala 2.0" by the PSU OMCs. This will soon usher in an era of universal access to clean cooking fuels.



PMUY – Bringing smiles to 8 crore Indian households



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India