

**05– 09 – 2023**

**News:** 25% PMUY customers took no cylinder refill or just one last year

- One out of every four beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), a scheme that aims to make LPG gas cylinders available to rural and deprived households, either did not take any cylinders during 2022–2023 or took just one refill. The spike in LPG cylinder prices made them an expensive proposition even for subsidised households; rates have almost doubled since 2018, reaching ₹903 a cylinder in March 2023 even after a subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder was offered to PMUY beneficiaries in May 2022.

## **Pradhan Mantri UJJWALA Yojana (PMUY)**

### **Background**

- Large section of Indians, especially women and girls, are exposed to severe **Household Air Pollution** (HAP) from the use of solid fuels such as biomass, dung cakes and coal for cooking.
- A report from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare places **HAP as the second leading risk factor contributing to India's disease burden.**
- According to the World Health Organization, solid fuel use is responsible for about 13% of all mortality and morbidity in India (measured as Disability-

Adjusted Life Years), and causes about 40% of all pulmonary disorders, nearly 30% of cataract incidences, and over 20% each of ischemic heart disease, lung cancer and lower respiratory infection.

### **Scheme Features**

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, which aims to **provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections** to poor households.
- Under the scheme, an **adult woman member of a below poverty line** family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a **deposit-free LPG connection** with financial assistance of Rs **1,600 per connection** by the Centre.

### **Identification of households**

- **Eligible households will be identified in consultation with state governments and Union territories.**

### **Implementing agency**

- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**

## Target

- The target of UJJWALA 1.0 was to provide 5 crore LPG gas connections to 5 crore women.
- Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories including SC, ST, most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers and Islands.
- Later, the target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections which were achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the target date.
- But, only three States have become kerosene free. These include- Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Territories that have become kerosene-free are the Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Puducherry.

## Second phase of UJJWALA

- Recently, the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – Ujjwala 2.0 was launched.
- In the Union budget for Financial Year 2021-22, a provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was announced.

- These one crore additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0 aim to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of this scheme.
- Along with a deposit free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.
- Also, the enrollment procedure will require minimum paperwork.
- In Ujjwala 2.0, migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof.
- A self-declaration for both 'family declaration' and as a 'proof of address' will suffice.
- Ujjwala 2.0 will help achieve the Prime Minister's vision of universal access to LPG.