

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna

is an scheme of women empowerment and which aims to tackle indore air pollution.

launched in 2016, the scheme provided Before LPG connection free of cost to poor women, however due process has been recently suspended.

But parliamentary committee on petroleum voted for its continuance.

Need of the scheme

(i) chronic pollution - According to WHO, India witness slab premature deaths due to indore air pollution. which is prominent among infants & women.

→ vision problems, breathing problems like Asthma are common disease due to pollution.

(ii) women empowerment - LPG connection saves women's time of collecting fuel woods. They can use this time to for other productive purpose like education.

(iii) India's efforts to raise gas consumption from 6% to 15% by 2030 to build gas based economy.

(iv) Reducing coal footprint via 3 to 3.5% of GDP by 2030.

→ This also includes saving forests and deforestation from fuelwood.

concerns with the scheme

(i) CAG report though praised the scheme, highlighted the misappropriation of gas.

(ii) Refilling is very low among PMUY beneficiaries vis a vis non PMUY cylinders due to financial constraints.

Though government subsidised PPVY cylinders during pandemic, the should ~~be~~ continue with following improvements:-

- (i) Re-inventing PANAL - which has lost momentum, by rewarding the donors.
- (ii) Local interconnection with schemes like GOBARDHAN. Building entrepreneurship & innovation ecosystem to produce Biogas, Bio-LPG. This will provide cheap and easy refilling.
- (iii) Greene Readdressal for diversion of cylinders and proper monitoring should be done to increase reach of benefits to actual beneficiary.
- (iv) City gas distribution network, home delivery of cylinders should be incorporated as secondary targets of the scheme.