

P-17018/1/2016-LPG
Government of India
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
31st March 2016

To

The Director General, PPAC, New Delhi
The Chairman, IOC, New Delhi
The C&MD, BPCL/ HPCL, Mumbai

Subject : **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – Scheme Guidelines**

Madam/ Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the Scheme Guidelines for providing free LPG connections by OMCs to Women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households under 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY), for information and necessary action.

2. This issues with the approval of the Hon'ble MoS(I/C), PNG

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

K.M. Mahesh 21/3/2016

(K.M. Mahesh)

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Copy to :

- 1) Adviser (IFD), MOP&NG
- 2) Director (S&P), MOP&NG

Copy also to: Director (Mkt), IOC/BPCL/HPCL, Mumbai

"Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana"

Scheme for Release of Free connections to BPL Women

1. Short title

The Scheme for providing free LPG connections by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to the women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households shall be called Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The Scheme will cover 5 crore BPL households over a period of three years.

2. Commencement

The PMUY scheme will come into force from 1st April, 2016.

3. Objective

Availability of clean cooking fuel is a major challenge for rural poor households in the country. Lack of access to clean fuel is adversely affecting the health of particularly women and children in the households using unclean fuel. Government is committed to providing clean fuel to all poor households. Therefore, the Union Budget 2016-17 allocated Rs. 2000 crore to provide free LPG connections to 1.5 crore women belonging to the below power line (BPL) families during the year 2016-17.

4. Definitions

- (a) BPL is a person/ household who suffers from at least one deprivation under the SECC - 2011 (Rural) Database. For identifying urban poor, separate instructions would be issued;
- (b) Release of LPG connection : LPG connection under this Scheme shall be released in the name of the women belonging to the BPL family;

(c) Cash Assistance - This will cover the initial cost of Rs. 1600/- for providing a connection and this cash assistance would be provided by the Government for each new LPG connection;

(d) SECC - refers to the Socio-Economic Caste census exercise initiated in the year 2011. This exercise was undertaken in a transparent manner by the State Governments and the Ministry of Rural Development, before the SECC database was finalized.

5. Selection of Beneficiaries

While the selection of beneficiaries would be from the BPL families only, preference would be given to SC/ ST and weaker sections of society. While providing the new connections to BPL households, priority would be given to the States which have lower LPG coverage (compared to the national average) as on 1st Jan, 2016.

6. Implementation Modalities of the Scheme would be as follows:-

- A woman of the BPL household, which does not have access to LPG connection at the start of the new Scheme, may apply for a new LPG connection (in the prescribed format) to the LPG distributor. While submitting the application form, the woman will submit details, like Address, Jandhan/ Bank Account and Aadhar number (if the Aadhar number is not available, steps would be taken in coordination with UIDAI for issue of Aadhar number to the woman of BPL household), ;
- The LPG Field officials will match the application against SECC - 2011 database and, after ascertaining their BPL status, enter the details (name,

address etc) into a dedicated OMC Web portal through a login/ password given by the OMCs;

- OMCs will undertake electronically the de-duplication exercise and other measures for due diligence for a new LPG connection;
- The connection shall be issued by the OMC to the eligible beneficiaries (after completion of various stages above). While the connection charges would be borne by the Government, the OMCs would provide an option for the new consumer to opt for EMIs, if he so desires, to cover the cost of a cooking stove and first refill. The EMI amount may be recovered by the OMCs from the subsidy amount due to the consumer on each refill;
- In case the State Government or a voluntary organization or an individual wishes to contribute the cost of a stove and/or first refill, they would be free to do so in coordination with the OMCs. However, this would be under the overall umbrella of PMUY and no other Scheme name/ tagline would be allowed without express approval of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG);
- OMCs will also organize 'Melas' at various locations for release of connections to BPL families. This will be done in the presence of public representatives and distinguished personalities of the area;
- The scheme will cover BPL families under all forms of distributorship and for various sizes of cylinders (like 14.2 kg, 5 kg, etc.) depending on the field situation.

7. Expenditure

In addition to the expenditure on giving a new connection, the Scheme will have provision for 1% IEC expenses and 1% Project

Management Expenses (which includes the cost of administration, evaluation, technology support, etc.)

8. Modalities for settling claims under the PMUY Scheme by OMCs

OMCs will release the connection to women of BPL families after completing the procedure detailed above. OMCs shall submit their claims for the connections released from 1.4.2016. The claims shall be lodged on quarterly basis. The claim will be submitted to PPAC within 10 days of the end of that quarter. PPAC will scrutinize and forward the claims to MOP&NG, which will in turn reimburse the claims of OMCs.

9. Audit and verification of claims

- a) All the claims submitted by OMCs shall be duly audited and be accompanied with audit certificate.
- b) PPAC will scrutinize the claims of the OMCs from their books of account and can cross check claims from accounts maintained and for this purpose may call for any related information or visit and examine records maintained by OMCs at site, plant office, regional office, head office etc.
- c) The Government may also undertake third party audit of the Scheme.

10. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute with regard to interpretation of any provision of the Scheme will be referred to MOP&NG and the decision of the Ministry shall be final and binding on all.

11. Miscellaneous

MOP&NG shall have the power to issue clarifications or directions for smooth implementation of the scheme.