

Q.

Though sustaining LPG adoption in rural India is a challenge, gas must be a more sustainable energy basket per family. Discuss.

Ans.

According to IRES and CEEW nearly 85% of Indian homes have LPG connection, 71% for cooking compared to 30%.

various reasons for this success of LPG connection like Ujwala subsidies, high awareness, women's right, low prices for gas and strengthened success but still 30% rely on biomass for primary cooking.

* Reason behind this issue in rural India for LPG :-

(1) lockdown - Price inflation :-

during pandemic problems like high price of food, also covered cooking energy needs. currently 20% out of monthly expenditure money spent by Indian household on LPG. loss of income, covid-19 outbreak, subsidies refill issues, price increased nearly 50% in november 2021 is problematic.

(2) Rural issues :- states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, MP, Odisha, WB, where biomass is primary source for fuel. 30% utilize biomass as primary cooking fuel, another 24% LPG and biomass both. In this state issues like lack of home delivery, LPG refills limits, inexpensive option are reason.

(3) LPG shortages :- Only half of rural LPG consumers get refills delivered to their home, while in some rural area customers have to drive around 5 to 10 km out of village for LPG. Area like Pockets, Slums, that's also other reason why they use biomass over LPG.

Way forward :- Government can take various step like restoring LPG subsidies, under Ujjwala scheme which benefits nearly 50 million family, income based subsidies, strengthen LPG supply, self help group, etc. will be helpful to strengthen and encourage rural family to utilize LPG on rural basis.

Conclusion :- Government Ujjwala 2.0, PMUY scheme can also wear families from polluting cooking to LPG. this initiative also help to improve the population health and wellbeing.