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BIJU JANATA DAL

14th June, 2023

The Hon'ble President of India
Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi

MEMORANDUM

(Through the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha)

Sub: Demand for reducing the prices of LPG Cooking Gas which is hurting the mothers and sisters of Odisha and India

Hon'ble Madam,

We, the members of the Biju Janata Dal have witnessed the adverse impact of rising prices of LPG Cooking gas and the pain its causing to the kitchens of Odisha and the mothers and sisters of the State.

The BJP Government has hiked LPG Cooking Gas prices by almost 3 times in past 9 years. Though the BJP Government brought in Ujjwala Yojana to provide subsidized cylinders with intent that women of Odisha and India will not have tears in their eyes due to the earlier smoke of firewood, but the rapid hiking of LPG Cooking Gas prices by them has brought tears not only to the



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eyes of the mothers and sisters of Odisha but today the kitchen in households of Odisha is also in tears, bringing them great pain and hardship.

While rising prices of essential commodities, fuel and inflation are causing great pain to the 4.5 crore people of Odisha, the BJP Government does not seem serious about reducing the price of LPG Cooking Gas.

The price of one domestic LPG Cylinder (14.2 kg cylinder) on March, 2014 was Rs. 410 has become Rs. 1130 now. The price of One LPG Cooking gas cylinder has been increased by almost 3 times in the past 9 years by the BJP Government. Can you imagine 3 times in 9 years?

This steep rise has caused great pain and anguish to the lakhs of mothers and sisters of Odisha and to the lakhs of Kitchens of Odisha. On one hand, BJP Government speaks about cheaper cooking gas and on the other hand they are hiking the cooking gas prices so high.

Due to such steep hiking of Cooking Gas, **about 90 lakhs mothers and sisters of India and lakhs of mothers and**



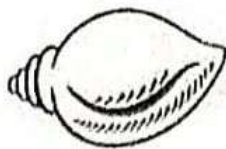
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sisters from Odisha have not been able to refill the gas and are again compelled to return to using firewood. This shows the failure of the Ujjwala Yojana for the mothers and sisters of Odisha. This Ujjwala Yojana was started with great fanfare to provide cheap cylinders to the underprivileged sections of society but has failed miserably.

Latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reveals that the usage of LPG cylinders remains low despite the much-touted Ujjwala Yojana. While **BJP Government** claims that LPG coverage in India is almost 98%, the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) states that there has been only a 20% increase in the overall usage of clean cooking fuel.

In the past, the CAG in its report titled 'Performance Audit of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' had also raised **concerns** on the low rate of refills and low usage of the Ujjwala Yojana among the beneficiaries and nothing much has changed since.

The poor are unable to refill the Ujjwala cylinders due to steep rising prices of Cooking Gas and are now forced to return to using



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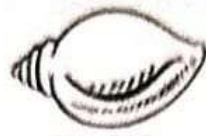
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firewood for running their kitchen. Many studies both national and international have been highlighting this concern but the BJP Government is not bothered. Unless the prices of Cooking Gas are reduced so that the poor can afford it, the grandiose programme of Ujjwala Yojana will continue to fail.

The Biju Janata Dal demands that the BJP Government must take immediate steps in reducing the price of LPG cooking gas. It stands with the people of Odisha and especially the mothers and sisters of Odisha who are facing a tough time in running the kitchen with these escalating prices.

Therefore, we the **Biju Janata Dal**, representatives of the people of Odisha and fighting for the cause of the 4.5 crore Odias, through this memorandum demand that the BJP Government brings down the LPG Cooking gas prices with immediate effect.

We further demand that the BJP Government should refund the excess money collected by hiking prices and transfer it back through Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) to the women beneficiaries of LPG cooking gas, or provide free LPG Cooking gas cylinders to these women beneficiaries.



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