

Encouraging the sustained usage of LPG remains a big challenge, and low consumption of refills hindered recovery of outstanding loans disbursed under the scheme.

The annual average refill consumption on 31st December 2018 was only 3.21.

### **System Anomalies:**

There are deficiencies such as the issuance of connections to unintended beneficiaries, and problems with the software of the state-run oil marketing companies for identifying intended beneficiaries and inadequacies in the deduplication process.

### **Conclusion:**

The scheme should be extended to poor households in urban and semi-urban slum areas.

There is a need for achieving a higher LPG coverage of the population by providing connections to households that do not have LPG.

The positives are 'Give it up' campaign, LPG Panchayat etc have been remarkable in bringing in behavioral changes.

**Target beneficiary expansion and identification** must be carried out carefully to eliminate fake accounts and corrupt use of the scheme.

Government needs to ensure and provide subsidies refills and that rural households are able and willing to pay for them.

This enhances their health and quality of life, as well as urban air quality. It is a **social investment.**

## **7.Serving those who serve: On WHO honour for ASHA workers**

### **How ASHA Workers Helped During Covid-19**

- India has over **1 million** ASHA workers
- ASHA workers are the first line of defence in India's fight against Covid-19
- During the pandemic, their work included visiting the community, ensuring quarantines, bring medicines and supplies, in addition to taking care of those with palliative needs
- Some **6 lakh** of them went on strike in August to demand better pay and recognition as permanent government employees

### **Context:**

**India's one million all-women ASHA** (Accredited Social Health Activist Workers) workers were awarded and honoured by WHO for their 'outstanding' contribution to advancing global health,