

Sl. No.	Fl. No.	Dep. Date	Dep.	Arr.
1049.	AI0409	31-Oct-14	DEL	PAT
1050.	AI0410	31-Oct-14	PAT	DEL
1051.	AI0634	31-Oct-14	DEL	BHO
1052.	AI06	31-Oct-14	BHO	BOM

**Formulation of comprehensive food management and pricing policy**

\*15. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Finance in its 81st report had strongly recommended that a comprehensive food pricing and management policy be formulated by Government to provide relief to the common man and foster economic growth with price stability in the country;

(b) whether Government has failed to provide relief to the common man from the unabated rise in the prices of essential commodities; and

(c) the steps taken to formulate a comprehensive food management and pricing policy to check food inflation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a significant moderation in price level during 2014-15. Inflation in terms of Consumer Price Index (with base year: 2010), which averaged 9.5 per cent in 2013-14 declined to 6.8 per cent during April-December, 2014. As per revised series of CPI with base year 2012, CPI inflation stood at 5.1 per cent in January 2015.

(c) The components of food management and pricing policy are already in place. The principal policy objective of food management is to ensure food security, particularly for the vulnerable, through timely and efficient procurement and distribution of foodgrains. This involves procurement of foodgrains from farmers at remunerative prices, building up and maintenance of buffer stocks, storage, movement and distribution of foodgrains to consumers at affordable prices and stability of foodgrains prices. Subsidized foodgrains are made available to the eligible households under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. In addition, Government makes additional allocation from the Central Pool to make more foodgrains available to the States/UTs to meet their additional requirements.