products to a few State Govts. and other organisations.

**Monitoring Committee for Public Distribution System**

1769. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to constitute a monitoring Committee to check the irregularities being committed in the working of the Public Distribution System in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). State Governments and U.T. Administrations have been advised from time to time to set up Consumer Advisory and Vigilance Committees at District Block/Fair Price Shops levels to moniter the availability and proper distribution of PDS commodities. Such Committees have been set up in most of the States/UTs at various levels.

[*English*]

**Sophisticated Instruments for Regional Medical Hospital**

1770. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide latest sophisticated equipments to the Regional Medical Hospital Imphal and other leading district Hospitals in Manipur; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) Union Government have no proposal to provide latest sophisticated equipments to the Regional Medical Hospital Imphal and other leading district Hospitals in Manipur.

(b) Does not arise.

**Upgrading of FCI Status at Imphal**

1771. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to upgrade the status of the Food Corporation of India unit at Imphal;

(b) if so, when and in what manner; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (c). The Food Corporation of India has reported that it has a District Office at Imphal, which has been adequate for handling FCI operations in Manipur State. The Corporation has at present no proposal for upgrading the status of this office at Imphal.

**UGC Scales to College Principals**

1772. SHRI SURESH KODIKKUNNIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given UGC scale to college principals in some States;

(b) the criteria fixed for giving UGC scales to college principals;

(c) whether the Union Government

have taken immediate steps to give the UGC scale to college principals from Kerala State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) and (b). The Scheme of revision of pay scales of teachers in universities and colleges and other measures for maintenance of standards in Higher Education circulated by the Government of India to all State Governments provides that the Principals of Colleges may be placed in the scale of pay of Reader or Professor on the basis of criteria to be laid down by the State Governments. The two scales prescribed in the Scheme for the College Principals are—

(i) Rs. 3700-5700

(ii) Rs. 4500-7300

(c) to (e). The Government of Kerala has prescribed the scale of Rs. 4500-7300 to the Principals of Colleges with at least 5 post-graduate courses and student strength of more than 2000 in degree courses. Principals of all other colleges are placed in the scale of Rs. 3700-5700 by the State Government.

**Finalisation of National Housing Policy**

1773. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Policy has been finalised; if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether new suggestions have come from some State Governments for inclusion in the National Housing Policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) to (c). The draft National Housing Policy has taken into account the suggestions received from State Governments and the regional and national level consultations. Some of these suggestions are:

1. levy of a tax on vacant urban land and the constitution of a Shelter Fund;

2. innovative methods for speedy land acquisition;

3. flexible norms for rural and urban housing;

4. innovative savings and lending instruments.

**Distance Education Through Open Universities**

1774. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to promote distance education through open universities and correspondence courses in States;

(b) if so, the achievement made in this regard in Rajasthan so far;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to continue the scheme to promote distance education in Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, the target set and funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMAN-