

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are:

- (i) to examine the provisions of the Constitution regarding the responsibility of the Central Government in the field of Higher Education with a view to finding out the extent to which the Centre could assume greater responsibility in this field; and
 - (ii) to suggest appropriate steps to be taken for the purpose.
- (c) Does not arise.

All Party Hill Leaders' Conference

***56. Shri Swell:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on instruction from the Prime Minister, the Assam Governor met representatives of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference sometime in June last;

(b) whether the discussion he had was fruitful; and

(c) whether as a result, the Assam Governor has forwarded any concrete proposal for the consideration of the Central Government?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) At the end of their interview with the Prime Minister on June 10, 1963, leaders of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference requested him for further discussions. The Prime Minister suggested that they should see the Governor of Assam before meeting him again. Accordingly, some All Party Hill Leaders' Conference leaders met the Governor on June 18, 1963.

(b) and (c). The talks which the Governor of Assam had with the representatives of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference were exploratory in nature. No concrete proposals have yet emerged but the matter is under consideration.

Government Holidays

***57. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two sets of holidays are likely to be declared this year in India as Durga Puja (Dussera), Diwali and Holi holidays; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). Due to the occurrence of one Kshayamasa and two Adhikamasas, an unusual phenomena coming after 141 years, there is some difference of opinion as to the dates on which Dussera and Diwali festivals should be celebrated in 1963. It is for the States to declare their own holidays and they do so having regard to the local practice and the days on which the festivals are actually celebrated.

Coal Washeries

***58. Shri Mohammad Elias:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the considerations upon which the price of coal of various grades is determined;

(b) the considerations on which the price of washery products is determined; and

(c) the number of coal washeries at present in Bihar and West Bengal and those proposed to be opened in the Fourth Plan period?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) The price structure of coal was examined in detail by the Coal Price Revision Committee appointed by Government in 1957. The present prices are largely based on the recommendations of that Committee. These prices take into account the average cost of production in a colliery working under normal conditions, and include a reasonable margin