

**Formation of Press Council**

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\*874. **Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:**  
**Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:**  
**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a new formula to resolve the difference over the formation of the Press Council;

(b) if so, the main features of the new formula, and

(c) when the New Council will be set up?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Nandini Satpathy): (a) No, Sir. The formation of the Press Council under Section 4 of the Press Council Act, 1966, is mainly the concern of the Selection Committee consisting of the Chief Justice of India, the Chairman of the Press Council and a nominee of the President of the Indian Union.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The Council with its full complement of members was set up on November 16, 1966 and the tenure is three years. Question of setting up a new Council does not arise.

An Hon. Member: Question No. 899 may also be taken up along with this.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

**Press Council**

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\*899. **Shri Madhus Lamsaye:**  
**Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:**  
**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are serious differences between Government and the Chief of Indian Federation of Working Journalists on the new formula on the Press Council;

(b) if so, the basic differences; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve them?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Nandini Satpathy): (a) There is no new formula on the Press Council. Efforts to bridge the difference between the Press Council and the Federation of Working Journalists are however continued in a non-official way. Officially Government cannot help much.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Sidheshwar Prasad: Why is the federation of working journalists not joining this Council?

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: Out of 20 names submitted by the federation of working journalists four persons were nominated to the Press Council. Before they were nominated, the Press Council had got their consent in writing. But after the constitution of the Press Council, they resigned. Their complaint is that the Council was not constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Shri Sidheshwar Prasad: Was any meeting of the Press Council held and if so what were the matters discussed and what were the decisions taken?

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: A meeting of the Press Council was held. The resignation of the four members was entirely a matter for the chairman. But even then the chairman took the entire Press Council into confidence. The matter was pending. He has written a letter to all the four members.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: To get a clearer reply I would ask whether the representatives of the working journalists association would be taken in the Council and if so how many? Would anybody be taken who is not nominated by the said association?

**Shrimati Nandini Satpathy:** Yes, Sir. The representatives of the federation of working journalists were taken in the beginning but they resigned. Three organisations were notified by the Government: All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Federation of Working Journalists and the Press Association. The Press Council asked for a panel of names from each of these three organisations and after that the names were taken from the lists submitted by these three organisations.

**A.R.C. Recommendation for formation and re-grouping of Ministries**

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\*875. **Shri Baburao Patil:**  
**Shri A. Sreedharan:**  
**Shri P. Viswambharan:**  
**Shri Mangalathumadam:**  
**Shri Kameshwar Singh:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission have expressed their views on the recommendation by their study team, to create a new Ministry of Science and Technology and another recommendation regarding the re-grouping of Departments;

(b) if so, what are their views and which recommendations Government proposes to adopt immediately and when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister (Dr. Sarojini Mahishi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Shri Baburao Patil:** Seeing that the Minister for Food and Agriculture needs water and fertilisers to grow anything, should not irrigation and fertiliser factories be included in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture so that when we ask the Food Minister about the muddle and mess in the manufacture and distribution of fertilisers, he does not have to tell us to go to the Minister of Petroleum and

Chemicals? Isn't that like telling us to go to the devil?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi):** It is true that irrigation and the other subjects are very closely aligned, but if the hon. Member looks at these matters closely, almost all the subjects which the Government deals with are very closely inter connected. There is close coordination among the different ministries.

**श्री बबु सिन्घे:** इसी विषये प्रधानमंत्री जी माफको जवाब देना चाहिये, क्योंकि दो-तीन विभागों से, मिनिस्ट्रीज से संबंध होता है।

**Shri Baburao Patil:** The Government do not seem to understand the exact meaning of the words 'commerce' and 'Industry'. They have put textiles, coal, plantation and village industries in the Commerce Ministry while company affairs which should be a part and parcel of trade and commerce has been included in the ministry of Industrial development. Is this also another secular mix-up? And when is it going to end?

**Shrimati Indira Gandhi:** I think the hon. Member is full of good ideas and suggestions. He may meet the members of the Administrative Reforms Commissions.

**Shri A. Sreedharan:** In view of the fact that there is a surplus of ministers and also in view of the fact that there is a Minister without portfolio who has no definite responsibilities, will the Government create a ministry of science and technology and put it under the Minister without portfolio so as to provide him with employment?

... Sir, I have not received any reply to my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a very useful suggestion and the Government is very thankful for it.

**Shri P. Viswambharan:** In answer to another question put previously, it was said that the Minister without Portfolio is assigned duties which the