

**Formation of Press Council**

+

\*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**

+

\*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?