

occupies the most important place in the life of Buddha and therefore is entitled to prior consideration and should not be left to the choice of the particular State concerned?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: We have written to the State Government but the decision that the Government has taken is that this matter should be left to the State Government.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know what circumstances led the Government to celebrate this for the first time?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The year 1956 marks the 2,500th anniversary of Lord Buddha.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether all the expenses will be incurred by the Centre or they will be partly met by the States?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The cultural programme which is being arranged by the Central Government will be the responsibility of the Central Government and the State Governments will make their own programmes and meet the expenses thereof.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is it a fact that in answer to a question in the Lok Sabha the Government have stated the names of certain places where the celebrations are to be held and Vaishali is not one of them?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The reason is, we have not yet received the programme from the State Government of Bihar and I hope that Vaishali would be included by the State Government. That should not be neglected.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: There was a question in the Lok Sabha in which it was.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that he has not received the answer from the State Government as yet. Therefore, that name has not been mentioned.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: I am talking of the answer that was given in the

Lok Sabha in which the list of places where celebrations will be held was given and Vaishali was not included in that.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have already explained Vaishali does not appear in the answer because the Government of Bihar have not yet submitted their programme to us and I hope that Vaishali will be one of the places to be visited.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is the Government going to invite the Asiatic Buddhist Nations for this celebration; and, if so, which are those Nations?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: We have invited several delegates.

CONFERENCE OF THE CHIEFS OF ARMY STAFF OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES IN LONDON

*513. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of the Chiefs of the Army Staff of the Commonwealth Countries was held recently in London; and

(b) if so, whether India participated in the conference?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (DR K. N. KATJU): (a) and (b). Yes.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know what subjects were discussed and what decisions were arrived at?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Subjects discussed were those pertaining to professional interest. No decisions were taken in that Conference. They had just discussions and benefit was taken of them.

INDIAN EXPERTS UNDER UNESCO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

*497. SHRI M. VALIULLA (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI): Will