

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: A sub-committee has been appointed by this Committee who are examining the whole question of how this whole scheme can be implemented. It consists of:

Kakasaheb Kalelkar
Shri Pyare Lal
Shri Abid Husain
Shri Bharatan Kumarappa.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is there any scheme to provide the public here and abroad with Gandhian literature at cheap rates?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The scope of this Committee is rather limited. It is confining its attention primarily to the educational institutions of the Secondary, Primary and University stages.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are any educationists in India being consulted in this matter?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Most of these people who are in the Committee are educationists.

CELEBRATION OF THE 2,500TH BUDDHA JAYANTI IN 1956

*512. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to celebrate the 2,500th Buddha Jayanti next year;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that several places in the country connected with the life of Lord Buddha have been selected as sites for the celebrations; and

(c) whether Vaishali is one of the places so selected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Governments concerned have been requested to arrange local celebrations at important Buddhist centres situated in

their respective areas and it is for the State Governments to select such places and arrange for the celebrations?

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know if any Committee is formed by the Government for this celebration?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Yes.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Who are the Members?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The Committee is presided over by our distinguished Vice President. He is the Chairman of this Committee and there are other Members like the Chief Ministers of U.P., Bihar and Bengal.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What is going to be the programme, if it is formulated?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The cultural programme which will be arranged by the Central Government is as follows:

1. There will be an exhibition of Buddhist art.
2. Symposium on Buddhism as a cultural force.
3. Performance of the play 'Natir Puja'
4. There will be a publication of "2500 years of Buddhism" and "Buddhism in progress".
5. Publication of Devnagri version of three volumes of Pali Tripitika.
6. Documentary on Buddhism.
7. Visit of foreign delegates.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What are the places where the celebrations are going to be held mainly?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: We have written to all State Governments which are of importance in this respect and we have not yet received programmes from all the State Governments.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: Is the Government aware that Vaishali

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