

ing for some time are not likely to be refused?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Those banks are being given enough opportunities to rectify the defects. As soon as those defects are rectified the licences would be issued. If it is pressed too hard, then the only alternative would be to issue licences indiscriminately or refuse the licences and close down the banks.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Does it mean that even in regard to the scheduled banks which have not given licences so far, there are defects?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The hon. Member can make his own surmise. I would not like to make any observation because banking is a very delicate matter.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I suggest that the Reserve Bank should come to a decision one way or the other and either issue or refuse licences within a short period of time—say within a year?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I have already stated the position.

COMMONWEALTH ARMY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE AT CAMBERLEY

*441. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state the names of the Indian representatives who attended the Conference of Commonwealth Army Commanders recently held at the Staff College at Camberley in England?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (i) General Maharaj Shri Rajendra-singhji, D. 9. O., Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-chief, Indian Army; and

(ii) Major-General S. D. Verma. Master General of Ordnance.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: May I know the items that were discussed at this Conference?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The items¹ are of a secret nature and, I am afraid, cannot be disclosed on the floor of the House.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if it is a fact that this Conference was being held almost at a time when some British statesmen and officials were discussing with others the formation of the S. E. A. T. O.?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: No, that is not a fact. This Conference is an annual feature and so it has nothing to do with politics.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I can quite understand that it is an annual feature. I only wanted to know whether it is a fact that this Conference was being held exactly at a time when certain British imperialists were considering a proposal for the creation of the S. E. A. T. O. which is directed also against India?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I have already replied to that question that this Conference had nothing to do with that question.

*442. [The questioner (Shri R. P. Dube) was absent. For answer see col. 2827 infra.]

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS TO THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

*443. SHRI B. GUPTA: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount granted by the Government of India each year to the Government of West Bengal for educational purposes since the attainment of Independence;

(b) the schemes or objects for which each of these grants had been made; and

(c) whether the money granted in each year has been fully spent?