

N. C. C. Commission and Territorial Army Commission to Emergency Commissioned Officers

* 767. SHRI P. K. DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Cadet Corps Commission and Territorial Army Commission granted to Emergency Commissioned Officers are purely temporary jobs;

(b) if so, whether 494 Emergency Commissioned Officers granted National Cadet Corps Commission will be again rendered jobless; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in order to avoid such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): (a) to (c). Ordinarily Regular officers from the three Services man the posts in the National Cadet Corps. Due to acute shortage of Regular Officers, a number of ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers have been granted commissions in the NCC on a temporary basis. Their tenure is prescribed as two years, extendable by one year at a time for so long as their services are required. There are at present 596 ex-ECOs holding NCC commissions. As the present shortage of Regular Officers in the three Services is likely to persist for some years, there is no risk of these ex-ECOs holding NCC Commissions being retrenched in the near future.

As far as the Territorial Army is concerned, 82 ex-ECOs have been granted T.A. Commissions so far. The Territorial Army offers only part time employment for about two months in a year to persons who already have civil vocations. Such of those ex-ECOs granted T.A. Commissions who have not yet obtained regular civil employment will continue to be assisted by the Resettlement organisation to obtain civil employment.

East Africans of Asian Origin in India Awaiting Permission for Entry into Britain

* 768. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than 2,000 East Africans of Asian origin mostly students

in India, awaiting British Government's permission for entry into Britain;

(b) whether some of them have been waiting for more than three years;

(c) whether Government of India have taken up their case with the British Government; and

(d) if so, British Government's attitude in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Procedures of free entry into India are available for Commonwealth nations from East Africa generally, except for British passport holders of Indian origin from Kenya in respect of whom a visa system for entry into India was introduced in March, 1968. As some may have come in under the free entry procedures no firm estimates can be given.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have taken every opportunity to impress on the U. K. Government that Asian British passport holders from East Africa are solely their responsibility, and that they must be allowed unconditional entry into Britain.

Recently, the British Government have announced the doubling of the quotas for entry into British of East African British Asians from 1500 to 3,000 a year with an additional 1500 extra vouchers for the period June to December, 1971.

The Government of India had also taken up with the U.K. Government the special hardship that is involved for persons who came to India for studies, but are finding it difficult, because they are now over 16, to obtain permits to join their parents who have since migrated to U. K. from East Africa. The Government of U. K. have indicated that they would consider such cases sympathetically.

Refusal of Permission to Pilgrims to Visit Dera Sahib in Lahore

* 775. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sikh Pilgrims wanting to