

(b) if so, the future course of action to be taken by Government in this regard? —

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) The United Nations has not specifically dealt with the issue of the Suez Canal. The U.N. Security Council and subsequently the Emergency Session of the General Assembly have been concerned in achieving a solution of the West Asian crisis. Efforts of the World body in this direction have not yet achieved satisfactory results.

(b) Ever since the commencement of the hostilities the Government of India have been working vigorously in the United Nations and elsewhere to achieve a withdrawal as an essential step towards a satisfactory resolution of the problem facing the countries in the Middle East which would lead, among other things, to the opening of the Suez Canal.

Personnel of Indian Embassy in Peking

*1339. Shri Bedabrata Barua

Shri N. K. Sanghi;
Shri Y. A. Prasad
Shri D. N. Deb;
Shri D. Amat;
Shri R. R. Singh Deo;
Shri Shiva Chandra Jha;
Shri Madhu Limaye;
Shri D. N. Patodia;
Shri K. P. Singh Deo;
Shri F. K. Deo;
Shri A. Dipa;
Shri M. C. Majhi;

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state,

(a) whether Government have finalised the programme of bringing back the officials of the Indian Embassy at Peking and their families to India, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) and (b). It has been decided to bring back by small batches some of the Indian employees

of the Embassy at Peking with their families, accordingly two members of the family of one officer have returned to India on 6th July and 14 more will be returning before the end of this month.

Freedom Fighters of Goa

*1340. Shri Jagannath Rao Jembi:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 29 on the 22nd May 1967 regarding the release of Freedom fighters of Goa and state

(a) the further developments and the action taken in the matter, if any,

(b) whether it is a fact that a visa was refused by Portugal to the mother of Shri Mohan Ranade; and

(c) if so, the action which Government propose to take to make the same available through friendly countries?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) to (c) There has not been any fresh development as regards the release of these freedom fighters and efforts to secure their release through the good offices of friendly countries are being continued without any success so far. The Government of Portugal had earlier refused permission for Shri Ranade's mother to visit him in Portugal. The Mexican Government, who are looking after our interests in Portugal, have informed us that the Portuguese Government will now permit the visit.

Discrimination Against Emergency Commissioned Officers

*1341. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
Shri S. M. Banerjee;
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav;
Shri George Fernandes;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the large-scale discrimination that exists in