

Mrs Ditta's 'lies and deception'

MRS ANWAR DITTA has lost her four-year fight to be reunited in Rochdale with three children she claims are hers.

British-born Mrs Ditta, aged 25, and her husband, Mr Shuja Uddin, of 127 Crawford Street, appealed against a Home Office refusal last year to allow the children — Kamran, aged nine, Imran, aged seven, and Saima, aged six — to live in Britain.

They are in Pakistan with their grandmother.

Mr Clive P Rushton, adjudicator at the Manchester appeal, said in his ruling on Wednesday: "This is not merely an unlikely story. It is a series of unlikely stories."

He said the lies the couple had told in the past should not keep them apart from the children. Nevertheless, his decision rested mainly on their credibility.

Both had committed a series of "lies and deception" in Pakistan and Britain.

"How can they expect me to give any weight to their credibility?" he asked.

He listed instances which cast doubts on their credibility:

- Mrs Ditta said she had been divorced in court in Pakistan from a man she said she had not married.

- She gave a false age when she married Mr Uddin in Pakistan in 1968.

- Mr Uddin had been an overstayer in Britain.

- He changed his name to get employment and a national insurance card.

- The couple said they

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Mystery 'a bit of fun'

THE identity of Bamford Primary School's mysterious benefactor was revealed yesterday.

The school has been showered with gifts for the past fortnight and yesterday they got the "big surprise" promised by the well wisher.

Mrs Anne Stevenson, a schoolteacher at Roch Valley, revealed that she sent the gifts to mark the end of an 11-year association with the school through her four children.

Her youngest daughter, Gillian, left Bamford School yesterday. Since 1969, her other daughters Janet and Barbara, and son Michael have all attended the school.

Yesterday staff were enjoying the final present, a bottle of sherry, sent by Mrs Stevenson, of 17 Highfield Road, Bamford.

Headmaster Alan Lynskey said: "Eleven years and eleven presents — it's a superb gesture by Mrs Stevenson. It's been a very entertaining fortnight."

Mrs Stevenson preferred not to talk about it. "It's just been a bit of fun, that's all," she said.

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had not been previously married when they were married at a registry office in Rochdale in 1975.

Mr Rushton said he found it "hard to believe" that the couple had not been aware that Mr Uddin had been entitled to British citizenship because Mrs Ditta was born in Britain.

This fact was "well known in the immigrant community" and was publicised in the immigrant Press.

He said the "large quantity" of documentary evidence produced by the

appellants had been concerned mainly peripheral matters and did not outweigh the case against them.

Mrs Ditta told the Observer: "It is cruel the way they are keeping a mother away from her children.

"The separation has been tormenting me for years. My whole life is centered around getting together with my children again." She said she would seek leave to appeal.

About 60 people demonstrated against the Government's immigration laws while the decision was being given.