

Six Railway employees in the case of attempted theft on 29-5-66 at Gate No. 7, referred to in reply to part 'c' above, have also been arrested by police. The arrested employees are two Railway Protection Force Rakshaks and four crane staff. All the cases of attempted theft are under police investigation.

#### Transfer of Staff in Chakradharpur Railway Division

3469. **Shri H. C. Soy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Chakradharpur Division of the S. E. Railway, there is a large number of Office Assistants and other Railway Staff at Divisional Headquarters who are working there at same places for a period of 10 to 15 years and are never transferred, whereas comparatively new-comers are transferred much sooner; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) and (b). Yes. Office staff are not subject to periodical transfers. However, when it becomes necessary to transfer an employee of the Divisional Office, the juniormost employee is generally transferred out with the result that Seniors continue to remain in that office.

#### Export of Peacock Feathers

3470. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of peacock feathers to other countries has gone up in 1965-66 and, if so, by what quantity;

(b) the approximate number of peacocks killed for collecting these feathers; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned thereby during the above period?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase of about 2,000 kgs. as compared to 1964-65.

(b) No information is available as only shed feathers are exported.

(c) Rs. 1.38 lakhs in 1965-66.

#### Trade with U.S.S.R.

3471. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into an agreement with the Soviet Union to pay more for the imports from that country and to get less for the exports to that country;

(b) if so, the total loss to be suffered as a result of that agreement; and

(c) whether such an agreement has been entered into with any other country with rupee payment arrangement?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). The Indian importer, by his own contractual obligations, had to pay 57.5% more to U.S.S.R. on his current contracts after devaluation since the Soviets had incorporated a parity clause in almost all their export contracts. In their contracts with Indian exporters the U.S.S.R. had agreements in which our sellers had obligation to pay export duty. There was also no exchange variation clause in these contracts. Thus, legally the Soviet buyers were not obliged to pay extra to Indian exporters over the original value of the contracts in pre-devaluation rupees, while they would have received extra payments on all their export contracts uniformly. The Indian exporters would have been obliged to accept heavy losses, which according to the agreement signed on 11th July 1966, has been neutralised to the extent of 47.5%. On the other hand, the Indian importer,