

able to Port authorities in the last week of April 1964 was about Rs. 524.

(b) Yes; but since cleared substantially.

(c) The possibilities of diverting the affected vessels to other ports were explored and whatever diversions were found feasible, were made.

#### Import of Foodgrains

**225. Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of foodgrains has declined in the past two years;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether this had any effect on foodgrains in the internal market; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to stabilise the foodgrain prices?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Railway Accidents Committee

**226. Shri Gokulananda Mohanty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special branch has been opened in the Railway Board's office to implement the recommendations made by the Railway Accidents Committee; and

(b) if so, which are the recommendations the branch has presently taken in hand for implementation?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2914/64].

#### Naroj Railway Bridge Accident

**227. Shri Gokulananda Mohanty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1705 on the 10th September, 1963 and state:

(a) the amount of compensation paid so far to the families of persons killed as a result of the accident at the Naroj railway bridge on the S. E. Railway on the 15th January, 1963;

(b) whether all the families have received the compensation; and

(c) whether any party other than the Railway Administration was also responsible for the payment of this compensation?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) The contractors who were liable, under the contract, to pay compensation to the injured employees and the families of the workmen who were killed, have intimated that they have deposited with the Additional District Magistrate & Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Cuttack, 50 drafts each of Rs. 3,500/- for payment of compensation to the relatives of the 50 deceased workmen. In addition to this compensation, the contractors paid, as *ex-gratia* relief, an amount of Rs. 200/- to the relatives of each of the 50 deceased. The contractors have also made an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 200/- to each of the injured persons numbering 24.

(b) The responsibility for making payments to the families of the deceased workmen was that of the Additional District Magistrate and Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Cuttack, and the Railway Administration have no information in this regard.

(c) As already stated in part (a) above, the responsibility for the payment of compensation under the contract was that of the contractors only and the Railway have no responsibility in the matter.