

point of view, may I know whether the matter would be expedited?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is the point of view the Ministry of Agriculture is pressing.

Shri Warrior: To a former question the answer was given that there was some difference of opinion between Agriculture Ministry and the Planning Commission. May I know whether that difference has been resolved now? It is time for taking a final decision in this matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not yet fully.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that the ICAR has recommended the formation of such a committee and that the hon. Minister has also accepted on the floor of the House on a previous occasion that cardamom is one of the rich foreign exchange earners, I would like to know why there is so much delay. Let us know whether they are going to set up such a committee or board.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: One view that is expressed is that no sooner have we such committees the expenditure increases and so on. We are trying to meet that argument.

Protection from Termites

*897. { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data has been maintained relating to the approximate extent of damage in terms of money caused annually by termites in India to wood-work, furniture, stored products, books and records in Government buildings and to crops in India;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the nature of protective measures taken in this regard?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Different methods are used for different articles. Those adopted for Government stores, buildings and properties, are spraying of D.D.T., exposure to sun, use of termite-proof chemicals and paints. Organic and inorganic insecticides are used in the case of crops.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: The control of termites, particularly as regards grain, has been experimented with radio isotopes. May I know whether we have had any such experiments with radio isotopes in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The radio isotope is a recent thing, which we are utilising for all kinds of research. I do not know whether we have gone to the problem of termite so far.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Have we evolved any anti-termite thing especially for food such as obtains in the U.S.A. because the damage is very great through termites?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: With regard to storages, all our improved storages are termite-proof and no damage is reported.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: I am speaking of damages to crops alone.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are going to investigate so far as damage to crops is concerned.

Soil Conservation

*899. { **Shri Achar:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of soil conservation experts from the U.S.A. have visited India recently;

(b) if so, the States visited by them;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by them; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?