water supply at roadside stations. The position has since improved.

(b) No. More suitable locomotives have replaced those prevoiusly in use.

CARDAMOM

208. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the quantity of cardamom produced in India during the years 1950 to 1953, State-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 69.]

WOOD PRESERVATIVES

209. Shri V. P. Nayar: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun has evolved any wood preservative other than the mixture of Arsenic Oxide, Copper Sulphate and Potassium Bichromate or "Creosote"?

(b) If so, what are such preservatives and what are their ingredients?

(c) How far have the efficacy, economy, suitability and permanence of such preservatives been proved?

(d) What is the estimated quantity of timber subjected to treatment with wood preservatives in a year?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes.

(b) (1) Antiseptic-cum-fireproof composition consisting of boric acid, copper sulphate, zinc chloride, sodium dichromate and water.

(2) Copper organic salt preservative from Mahua oil.

(3) Copper organic Salt preservative from *chir* resin.

(c) (1) The antiseptic-cum-fireproof composition was evolved primarily because of a request from the Central Standards Office, Ministry of Railways for the treatment of *Chir* and laurel B. G. Sleepers for trials on the line. Their behaviour is being watched.

(2) Copper organic salt preservative from Mahua oil:—

This preservative was prepared during the war when the supply of wood preservatives was scarce, but since it involved the use of oils which also became very scarce, further work was discontinued.

(3) Copper organic salt preservative from *chir* resin:—

A simple copper salt from *chir* resin has been prepared and is useful, for protection of timber used for the furniture, toys, door and window frames etc. Attempts to develop it economically on a cottage industry scale are being made.

(d) As a broad estimate about 3 to 4 million cu. ft. of timber is treated per annum for use as railway sleepers, telegraph poles, wood piles, tea-chests etc.

ANTI-LOCUST OPERATIONS IN RAJASTHAN

210. Shri Karni Singhji: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred question No. 219 asked on the 24th November, 1952 and state whether the actual figures of damage done to crops by locusts during 1952 have since been collected?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lay it on the Table of the House?

(c) How much damage has been done to the crops by locusts during 1953 in Rajasthan, particularly the Bikaner and Jodhpur Divisions and the amount spent on anti-locust operations during the year 1953 in these Divisions?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes.