

श्री रामसेबक यादव: मेरी बात एक मिनट में खत्म हो जायेगी। अध्यक्ष महोदय, . . .**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing that is being said will be recorded. Shri Khadilkar.

12.36½ HRS.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL
EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION
OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI KHADILKAR (Khed) : I beg to move :

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be further extended upto the first day of the next session".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be further extended upto the first day of the next session".

The motion was adopted.

12.37 HRS.

MOTION RE : FOOD SITUATION
IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Annasahib Shinde on the 29th November 1967, namely :—

"That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration", along with the amendments moved.

Shri P. K. Deo may continue.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Yesterday I was saying that the mess in our food and agriculture sector is the culmination of the persistent pursuit of wrong policies by Government all these years since independence. A faulty order of priorities in planning, neglect of agriculture and irrigation, excessive taxation and suffocating controls with attendant corruption and waste and lastly, the expropriatory land reforms—all these together have been responsible

for bringing about disaster on the food and agriculture front. This has resulted in our overdependence on foreign food aid.

In the beginning of every Plan, we have been told parrot-like that we shall attain self-sufficiency at the end of the Plan. But it has turned out to be a complete moonshine. Our dependence on foreign food aid is bad, but this is inevitable under the present circumstances. Foreign food aid is increasing from Plan to Plan. From an annual average of 2.4 million tonnes in the First Plan, it had gone up to 13 million tonnes last year, and this year we estimate that we shall be importing 7.5 million tonnes.

12.40 HRS.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

In this regard, I would like to pay our grateful thanks to the foreign countries, especially Australia, Canada and USSR, and particularly USA, which gave aid in the shape of P.L. 480, for their timely aid to help us turn this tight corner.

Our achievement in the field of food production is far from satisfactory. Our food production has not kept pace with the growth of our population. Every day we add 24,000 people to our population, and 12 million people, the total population of Australia, is added every year. It is like climbing a greasy pole. For every foot of height gained in climbing, we lose three feet.

In crop yield also, we are one of the lowest in the world. In wheat we produce 898 kg. per hectare, whereas the UK produces 3,930 kg. and Netherlands 4,230 kg. Similarly, in the case of rice, our production figure is also very low. It is 1,530 kg. per hectare, whereas in Netherlands it is 4,230 kg. and in Spain 6,360 kg. There have been some startling revelations in the ECAFE report so far as our economic growth is concerned. It has stated that if we proceed at this rate; it will take 139 years for us to reach the Japanese level of today, and it will take 205 years to reach the stage of New Zealand.

It is because of these wrong priorities that there has been a complete neglect of our basic industry, that is agriculture. We are glad that our campaign to

**Not recorded.