

I shall now put the substitute motion No. 18, moved by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, to the vote of the House.

The question is:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

“This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that suitable measures be taken by the Government to increase food production in the country.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The substitute motion is carried. All the other motions are barred.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

17 hrs.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934

Mr. Speaker: It is a taxation measure. This is the end of the day. They do not want the country to know in advance. Now all the shops are closed. I am aware of a single case where two annas excise duty was imposed on silver. Somebody got knowledge of it and overnight he amassed Rs. 30 lakhs by purchasing silver and selling it. Now the question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I introduce** the Bill.

CASHEW INDUSTRY

Shri Kodliyan (Quilon—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I am raising this discussion to focus the attention of the House and the Government on three important points (1) inadequate Central aid to the cashew industry, (2) non-availability of imported cashew-

nuts at reasonable prices, causing frequent closure of factories, and (3) lack of adequate Central aid for the promotion of export of cashew kernels

Although the cashew industry is very much concentrated in Kerala State, apart from it being of vital importance to the economy of that State, it is equally important for India as a whole. In recent years while our export earnings have declined almost in every exportable items, the export of cashew kernels has produced more and more foreign exchange. In the context of a sharpening crisis in the nation's foreign exchange resources, the export of cashew kernels acquires an even greater importance.

From the hon. Minister's reply to a question on the 14th November, it can be seen that in 1956 alone it has earned over ten crores of rupees, an increase of Rs. 1.6 crores over what was earned in the previous year. To my own State the industry is of great value as it provides direct employment to about one lakh of workers, of whom 80 per cent. are women. The development of the industry has been such that although it is only two decades since the industry started, all the raw nuts produced in the whole of India taken together do not meet the requirements of keeping the factories working. So, we have to depend for half of our requirements of raw nuts upon the African countries.

One of the difficulties that prevents the development of the cashew industry is the non-availability of raw nuts in sufficient quantity. So the main problem of this industry is to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of producing raw nuts in our country. The Spices Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of India, has stated on page 123 of its report:

“In all these regions, extensive cultivation of the crop on a plantation basis should be encouraged.

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** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.