

[Shri Sushila Rohatgi]

for canvassing business for the Trust. It is reported that as a result of the initial efforts, applications for investments in Units totalling several lakhs of rupees have already been received by the Unit Trust of India.

It is hoped that with the enactment of the present legislation and the efforts underway the investments in Unit Trust of India by Non-Resident Indians and aliens of Indian origin will improve

Sir, the present Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance issued on 31st October 1975 and will come into effect from that date. I request the House to unanimously accept the Bill.

Sir, I move

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the unit Trust of India Act, 1963, be taken into consideration"

SHRI C K CHANDRAPAN (Tellicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have no objection in passing this Bill because it will provide the Indians residing abroad the facilities which are already there in regard to the investment in the commercial banks. So, as a matter of policy, I do not think that the Government has brought forward anything new

At the same time, I do not understand one thing. In this very House, on previous occasions, the Chair has told the Government that unless it is very essential, it is not good to promulgate an ordinance. I really fail to understand what was the urgent necessity behind promulgating this Ordinance for regularising a certain thing. It was absolutely not necessary. The Ordinance was promulgated on 31st October. From 31st October till the day on which the Parliament met, I do not think the Government has achieved any tremendous

break-through in mobilising the resources by way of foreign exchange in Unit Trusts. I would like the hon. Minister, while replying to the debate to enlighten the House as to what was the reason for the Government to promulgate this Ordinance and take the House for granted that it will just approve it.

Then, the hon. Minister said that there is a good response to the Ordinance and that several lakhs of dollars or several lakhs of rupees worth of foreign exchange are being attracted by the Unit Trust of India. I would like her to be more specific to tell us what exactly has been the response. From that, one can understand whether it was justifiable to promulgate this Ordinance in such a haste.

The third point that I would like to make is about the functioning of the Unit Trust of India. By way of fulfilling an assurance given in the House, the Government has sent certain answers to me yesterday wherein the Government says that the Unit Trust of India is making a big investment in large industrial houses. The whole scheme of the Unit Trust of India is supposed to be the one by which the small income group, the middle income group and the people who are not very affluent will save their little savings and they will be utilised for the growth of our economy in a purposeful manner. While introducing the Bill, the hon. Minister also said that the Government is amending the Act and bringing forward this Bill with a view to attract the foreign exchange so that the economic growth of our country will be made faster. I do not disagree with that. But I disagree very much and rather violently on this point that you collect money of the poor ordinary people and you invest it with large industrial houses. I would like to know to what extent they have invested the money in large industrial houses through the Unit Trust of India during the last several years. If that

is the policy of the Government, then I fear one thing. Of course, it will help the economic growth but it will not encourage the economic growth with social justice about which we are talking so much. If we are collecting money from the poor and giving it to the rich and the Unit Trust of India is a conveyor belt in doing this process, then it will add to the distortion of economy. That is why I feel that, while answering, the Government should come forward and say more specifically what their policy is in regard to the investment of the Unit Trust of India.

Lastly, in the same answer the Government says that the Unit Trust is represented by Shri R. D. Pusalkar, Shri M. V. Anunachalam and Shri D. C. Randeria. This was as in July 1974. I would like to know who are these gentlemen. Government should not try to escape by saying that they are trustees. I know, they were the trustees of the Unit Trust at that time. . .

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul)
This is outside the scope of the Bill

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: I support the Bill, but I would like that the Unit Trust should function in such a manner that it will justify this amendment. That is the reason why I am raising these points. I would like to ask the Minister whether these people, the trustees, are big industrialists, whether they are leaders of the Chamber of Commerce. I want to know who are those people. Or, do they belong to that small income group who are investing in the Unit Trust of India?

These are some of the things I would like the hon. Minister to answer while she replies. Otherwise, we support this Bill.

श्री मूल चन्द्र डागर (पानी) : इस बिल की भावना का मैं पूरा-पूरा समर्थन

कर रहा हूँ। इस बात में कोई भी इन्का नहीं कर सकता है कि यह बहुत अच्छा विकल्प है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस बिल का पूरा समर्थन करेगा। लेकिन मैं आप से कुछ सफाई चाहता हूँ। यूनिट ट्रस्ट ग्राफ इंडिया की लास्ट जॉ गिपोट है उस में उमने निवेश है :

"As the Trust enters the first year of its second decade, however, a measure of uncertainty has developed about the ability of the Trust to play its role in future. The limitation on dividend as announced by the Government would no doubt affect the Trust's income by reducing the dividends the Trust earns from its investments in ordinary shares. However, it may be noted that ordinary shares are only one component of the Trust's investment portfolio and that there are other investments which are equally important but which would not be affected by the Government's measures. Besides, the Trust would also vary its investment strategy in the light of the developing conditions so that its ability to play its role, though somewhat restricted, is not impaired"

11 साल इस ट्रस्ट को काम करने हुए हो गए हैं। करोड़ों रुपया उस में सरकार का लगा हुआ है। शेयर खरीदने का जो काम है इसको किम तरह में किया जाता है, यह मैं आप से जानना चाहता हूँ। इसमें छोटी छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज की मदद की जाती है या नहीं की जाती है या कुछ वैस्टिड इट्रस्ट वाले ही इसमें लाभ उठाते हैं? 16 लाख चालीस हजार कंपनियों भारत में है। कुछ लिमिटेड है, कुछ अनलिमिटेड है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें थोड़ी सी कंपनियाँ ही लाभ उठाती हैं। किन के शेयर खरीदे जाते हैं? मैं समझता हूँ कि उन्हीं कंपनियों के खरीदे जाते हैं जिन का इस ट्रस्ट को मैम्बर