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RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 26th February, 19141 tlu Ith Phalguna, 1895 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the chair.

FELICITATIONS TO MR. CHAIRMAN

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT): We wish you a happy birthday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you all very much for your affection and good wishes. I will try to serve you better.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT): Sir, I have pleasure to introduce Shri B. P. Maurya, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loans to large business houses by the Life Insurance Corporation

*I21. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the loans given by the Life Insurance Corporation to the large business houses, as mentioned in the Industrial Licensing Policy Committee report, during the year 1972 and 1973?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN): The term loans given by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to the Large Business Houses during 1971-72 and 1972-73 amounted to Rs. 35 lakhs and Rs. 175 lakhs respectively. In 1971-72 this loans was advanced to S.P. jain Group (Plastic, Resins and Chemicals Ltd.). In 1972-73, Rs. 75 lakhs were advanced to J.K Group (Straw Products Ltd.) and Rs. 1 crore to Jaipurias (Swadeshi Polytax Ltd.) 1 RSS/74—1.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I could not follow; this should have been laid on the Table of the House. Anyway we find whether it is the banks or whether it is the LIC, the persistent policy is to boost-up, encourage and strengthen the monopoly houses. Would the Finance Minister Please explain how it is that the large business houses received over 42 per cent of the total financial assistance sanctioned by the LIC and how is it that the Tatas were sanctioned the maximum amount of assistance of Rs. 25.79 crores followed by Birlas Rs.20.65crores? Isit consistent with the policy of the Government to help the Big Business while they are evading such huge amounts of income-tax, corporate tax and wealth tax and looting the country?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The figures that I gave were the figures for 1971-72 of the selected groups. The total amount that was given in that year amounted to Rs. 35 lakhs and in 1972-73 it was Rs. 175 lakhs. I do not know the percentages to which he has referred; I do not know where he got them from but I can tell him, if at all he isinterested to know about it, that we will have to take the investment of the LIC in its totality into consideration and find out what arethe percentages of investments made by the LIC in the different types of activities. Under tlie statue itself nearly 50 per cent of the investments have to be in Government securities and approved investments and out of the remaining 50 per cent also some of them are in approved investments and some in private investments. 1 would like to give for his information that in 1971-72 the total investment is Rs. 276.76 crores out of wliich investment in shares and debentures including loans to concerns belonging to monopoly houses comes to about Rs. 3.09 crores; that means it comes to about 1.12 per cent. In 1972-73 the total investment of LIC is Rs. 322 crores and 52 lakhs out of which Rs. 8.23 crores was the investment in shares and debentures including