

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : How can there be anything on record?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let there be some inquiry.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I cannot assure an enquiry about that period. As to who they were, what they were doing and whether those officers had any contacts, etc., it is difficult to prove that. If any further evidence comes to my hands, I will certainly have a look into it. The point that I am answering is this. On the inquiry that I have made, the inquiry that I could make so far, this is the advice I have got about it. As far as the other matter is concerned, certainly, there are certain cover names, and I have asked our agency to make further enquiries about it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What agency?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Intelligence Agency.

SHRI NATH PAI : How can he tell the House, "I have made an inquiry."? The revelations may be absolutely sensational mongering or they may be substantial. But the inquiry must be properly conducted. He says, "I have made an inquiry." Is that a fair reply? How can he complete an inquiry so quickly?

MR. SPEAKER : I know he has not answered other matters. That is all. *(Interruption)* Dr. Sushila Nayar.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : When we raised the question of CIA, not on this particular Call Attention, Mr. Chagla had assured the House that he would put the entire thing before the Cabinet and see that a Commission is appointed and a proper inquiry is made. The Home Minister has not replied to that even.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Sushila Nayar.

12.20 HOURS

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) BILL

(i) REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR (Jhansi) : I present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for matters connected therewith.

(ii) EVIDENCE BEFORE JOINT COMMITTEE

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence given before the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for matters connected therewith.

12.21 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE. DEVALUATION OF THE POUND STERLING

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : I would like to take this opportunity of making a brief statement regarding the decision of the U.K. Government to devalue the pound sterling. The extent of the devaluation is 14.3 per cent and therefore, at the new exchange rate, £ 1 equals US dollars 2.40 as against the old rate of dollars 2.80 to the pound. The pound sterling will now exchange for Rs. 18 instead of Rs. 21 previously.

The exchange rate of the Rupee in terms of gold or U.S. dollars will remain unchanged at the level established on June 6, 1966.

Honourable Members will wish to know the implications of the U.K. action for the Indian economy. The change in the exchange value of the pound is a moderate one. Its effect in general will be to improve the competitiveness of British products vis-à-vis