

SHRI G. MURAHARI: You take your time.

(No reply)

SHRI A. D. MANI : With reference to the question asked by the hon. Member here, may I ask the Minister to let me know what the withdrawals were and the remittances were in the corresponding period of last year for the month of May 7 I am raising this question because according to my information, semi-official documents went into circulation in the United States warning about the impending devaluation of the rupee. I have heard it from very high sources. I am told also that our Indian Embassy in Washington is aware of such documents being circulated. Therefore, I would like to know what were the withdrawals and what were the remittances in the corresponding month in 1965, so that we can make a comparison.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The comparison will be between May 1966 and May 1965.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Absolutely.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I do not know whether the hon. Member wants it and whether we can get the figures, but I would submit that this is a better comparison than the earlier one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS BY BRITISH BANKS

♦741. SHRI P. C. MITRA :

SHRIMATI SEETA YUDHVIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that three British Banks operating in India put through foreign exchange transactions totalling Rs. 50 crores during three days prior to devaluation;

(b) if so, whether the transactions were of normal character or had anything to do with earlier knowledge of impending devaluation of the rupee; and

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. C. Mitra.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is investigating into such foreign exchange transactions, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI P. C. MITRA : May I know, Sir, whether they have any information about the amount of the transactions they had during the three days prior to devaluation?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is about Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 crores.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Will the hon. Minister say whether any exchange transactions were at all put through by any British or European or American bank? That is No. 1. Secondly, does he know the United Commercial Bank was engaged in exchange operations running into crores of rupees just before devaluation?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This question is about the British banks and the United Commercial Bank is an Indian bank. Therefore, I do not know it. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: It is Birla's bank.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the National and Grindlays Bank, which is a British bank, put through exchange transactions running into quite a few crores just before devaluation.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As I said, the total transactions prior to devaluation by all the banks authorised, not one bank, comes to Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 crores. If you take the ready sale and forward sale by all the British banks just before devaluation, it comes to only 8 million pounds, as far as the sales are concerned. I do not know how the hon. Member can come to the conclusion that it was a huge amount.

#### IDIKKI PROJECT IN KERALA

\*742. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government will be pleased to lay a statement containing the stage by