

CBI's REPORT ON CRICKET MATCH FIXING AND RELATED MALPRACTICES

<http://cbi.nic.in/match1.htm>

SECTION-I

GENERAL

(a) GENESIS:

In response to the request from Ministry of Sports regarding an inquiry into match fixing and related malpractices in Indian Cricket, vide DO No. F-23-8/2000-SP.III from Shri N.N. Khanna, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, CBI registered a Preliminary Enquiry No. 2/S/2000 on 2.5.2000. The scope of the PE is broadly limited to the letter of Shri N.N. Khanna in which there is a general mention of various allegations as they had appeared in the media as well as issues raised during a debate in both the Houses of Parliament. The Ministry's letter further requests the CBI to collect and evaluate various news-items and information published in both the print and electronic media and conduct a comprehensive enquiry into the allegations of match fixing and related malpractices connected with the game of cricket.

(b) PARAMETERS:

After registering the PE, CBI undertook an exercise to fix certain parameters, since the enquiry was open-ended without setting for itself any specific time-frame for which the probe was to be conducted or specific allegations or names which had to be looked into or specific areas which had to be enquired into. In this connection it was decided that first of all a broad enquiry was to be made to ascertain whether match fixing and other malpractices connected with the game of cricket existed. Accordingly, the following corner-stones were fixed as primary focal points of this enquiry:

(1) to identify the betting syndicates operating in India and examine their activities;

(2) to unravel the linkages of cricket players or their intermediaries with these syndicates and their roles in the alleged malpractices; and

(3) to examine the role and functions of BCCI so as to evaluate whether it could have prevented the alleged malpractices.

(c) MECHANICS USED:

(i) All available overt and covert information about players, ex-players, bookies and middlemen whose names had figured in the various media reports and through sources developed by CBI was shortlisted and all relevant facts regarding them including details of property, details of business associates, etc. collected.

(ii) The general public were requested to come forth with information, if any, regarding match fixing, etc. through appeals published and broadcast in the print and electronic media.

(iii) An intensive exercise was conducted to analyse telephone and mobile phone printouts to establish a player-bookie nexus, if any. In this exercise, thousands of pages of mobile phones and land line printouts including those of players, their relatives, associates, and bookies, etc. were analysed through a specially designed computer software. Details of telephone calls made by cricket players from their hotel rooms during recent matches were also analysed.

(iv) The tapes which were allegedly shot clandestinely by Tehelka.Com along with Manoj Prabhakar were also studied.

(v) After collecting relevant material/evidence as listed above, individual players, past and present, officials and bookies were examined and they were confronted with evidence at hand which the CBI had gathered during its enquiry.

(d) MATCH FIXING: AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMINOLOGY -

‘Match Fixing’ in this enquiry is used as an omnibus phrase to denote the following:

(i) instances where an individual player or group of players received money individually/collectively to underperform;

(ii) instances where a player placed bets in matches in which he played that would naturally undermine his performance;

(iii) instances where players passed on information to a betting syndicate about team composition, probable result, pitch condition, weather, etc.,

(iv) instances where groundsmen were given money to prepare a pitch in a way which suited the betting syndicate; and

(v) instances of current and ex-players being used by bookies to gain access to Indian and foreign players to influence their performance for a monetary consideration.

SECTION-II

BETTING SYNDICATES IN INDIA:

(a) THE HISTORY -

Although betting on cricket matches was taking place on a one- to-one basis on a small scale prior to 1983, betting through syndicates, ironically, started on a major scale only after India's triumph in the 1983 World Cup. This was the period when live telecast of matches featuring India, both at home and abroad, started on a regular basis. Initially, betting was restricted to a group of friends, but by the late 1980s, it had become more organised, and a number of bookies spawned in major metropolitan cities. An interesting feature of this racket was the fact that this was set in motion mainly by bookies who were involved in betting at horse racing.

By early 1990s, betting on cricket had spread across India and had attained a measure of sophistication. Typically, all that a bookie needed to start his profession was a telephone connection, a television set, a note book and a clientele who were basically known to the bookie through various contacts.

As at the race course, in cricket also, a person who places bets with a bookie is called a punter. Any cricket match which is shown live on television, whether an international, domestic, veteran or festival match, activates the betting syndicate. All transactions in this trade are carried on by word of mouth. For example, if a punter wants to place his bets in a particular match, all that he does is call up his bookie over telephone, find out the 'odds' and place his bets for a particular amount. No money changes hand at this point of time and the punter's bet is duly entered by the bookie in his note book. After the conclusion of the match, exchange of money takes place and the note book is destroyed. In the early years, betting was mainly confined to the final outcome of a match, but, over a period of time, betting on other aspects like the toss, individual scores, team scores, etc. generally termed "spread betting", also started.

By the middle of 1990s, with a surfeit of one-day matches being shown live on television and also the onset of cable revolution in which international matches featuring countries other than India also began to be telecast live, betting had taken the shape of a massive organised racket. The introduction of mobile phone in the mid '90s also gave a major fillip to this racket, since bookies and punters were no longer solely dependent on P&T lines for communication and could also be more mobile. Bombay emerged as the major center for betting, followed by Delhi and other metropolitan cities such as Calcutta, Chennai, Ahmedabad and even smaller district towns. Bombay took the lead in this racket since the 'odds' on which bets were placed in any match throughout India was determined by the bookies based in Bombay. Currently also Bombay remains the base around which all betting operations in India revolve.

(b) BETTING PROCEDURE :

The 'odds' for a particular match are decided among bookies based on certain accepted criteria such as the relative strength of the two opposing teams, previous record, pitch and weather conditions, team composition, etc. For example, if two teams, 'A' and 'B', are scheduled to play, and where 'A' is perceived to be relatively weaker than 'B', then the odds may be 60 paise on 'B' and 150 paise on 'A'. After these 'odds' have been decided upon, primarily by bookies based in Mumbai, they are transmitted telephonically to bookies in different parts of India and betting starts.

Punters place bets with concerned bookies over telephone. For example, if a punter places a bet of Rs.1 lakh on team 'B' winning the match, he will get Rs.60,000/-, if team 'B' actually wins. On the other hand, if he places a bet on 'A' winning the match and if team 'A' actually wins the match, he will get a sum of Rs.1,50,000/-. However, in case he loses his bet in either instance, then he pays a sum of one lakh which he placed as a bet, to the concerned Bookie. The whole betting procedure is a very flexible system in which 'odds' keep changing during the course of the match depending on how the match is progressing and the punter can conclude and place fresh bets according to his judgement.

Without going into the intricacies of changing 'odds' during the course of a match, it is emphasised that bookies generally manipulate the 'odds' in such a manner that they seldom incur huge losses. It is generally the punter who risks losing his money. The 'odds', which keep fluctuating as the match progresses, are transmitted to the bookies throughout India by mobile phone, pager or through the 'Dibba' system.

The 'Dibba' has a phone with speaker facility. The person operating the 'Dibba' will normally have a Mini Exchange in which there are 10 to 12 incoming and around 100 outgoing lines. An operator will constantly receive the prevailing 'odds' in the incoming lines from the big bookies. These 'odds' are in turn constantly passed on to the other bookies/punters through the outgoing lines from the phone with speaker facility. The outgoing lines are also used by bookies/punters throughout India for the latest information about prevailing 'odds' at Mumbai. The outgoing lines are kept energised throughout the match. Our enquiry has disclosed that primarily the owners of STD booths act as conduits in this sort of a communication network.

The operations of betting syndicate in India are in the nature of a cartel. This primarily means that there are no two groups of bookies who fix 'odds' at widely differing rates. This, to a degree, ensures that there is no cut-throat competition which harms the interest of bookies. In spite of this, if there are any differences regarding any particular match, these are sorted out mutually among themselves.

(c) MAJOR BOOKIES AND PUNTERS :

Some of the important bookies and punters who have emerged as key figures in the enquiry due to their connections with the cricketers in one way or the other are:

S.No.

Bookies

1

Mukesh Kumar Gupta, @ M.K. @ John,

C-538, Defence Colony, Delhi

2

Anil Steel,

r/o 312, Luxmichand House,

1st Floor, Telung Road,

Matunga, Bombay.

3

Anand Saxena,

3562, Gali Than Singh, Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi and

D-84, Defence Colony,

New Delhi.

4

Shobhan Mehta,

1503 & 1504, Deepak Jyoti Building, Kala Choki, Mumbai-33.

5

Uttam Chand,

145, North Usman Road,

First Floor,

T. Nagar, Chennai

6

Naveen Sachdeva, @ Tinkoo

41/7, 2nd Floor,

Punjabi Bagh (East), Delhi,

7

Deepak Rajouri,

A-120, Vishal Enclave, Delhi-27.

8

Sanjeev Sacher @ Babloo, 18/18-A, Moti Nagar, New Delhi.

S.No.

Punters

1

Ajay Gupta, 41, Rajpur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi.

2

Ameesh Gupta, 34/1, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi.

3

Gyan Gupta, 34/1, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi.

4

Nishit Goyal, 8/3, Ram Kishore Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-54.

5

Sanjeev Kohli @ Tipu Kohli, D-14, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi.

6

Rattan Mehta, W-38, Panchsheel Enclave, 2nd Floor, New Delhi and A-13/8, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

7

Pawan Puri, Puri Farm House, Mehrauli, Gurgaon Road, New Delhi.

8

Sanjay Anand, I-33, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi - 15.

9

Rajesh Kalra, S-252, Ist Floor, Greater Kailash, Part-II, New Delhi.

(d) DIMENSIONS OF BETTING:

Betting on cricket is today, in terms of monetary turn-over and volume of transactions, perhaps the biggest organised racket in the country. According to rough estimates, the turn-over for a one-day match in any part of the world which is being telecast live in India is to the tune of hundreds of crores. A primary reason for the growth of this racket is the relatively liberal provisions of the Public Gambling Act . The ingredients and punishments under this Act differ from State to State. Even as it is debatable whether betting on cricket attracts provisions of this Act, since cricket theoretically is a game of skill, the maximum punishment under this Act, for example in Delhi, for a first offence is imprisonment for 6 months and a fine of Rs.1000/- and for subsequent offences, a maximum punishment of imprisonment for 1 year and a fine of Rs.2000/-. Hence, for a bookie or a punter dealing in crores of rupees, the provisions of this Act are no major cause for worry.

During the enquiry, it was also learnt that the lure of easy money has gradually attracted the underworld into this racket. It seems that it is only a matter of time before major organised gangs take direct control of this racket, a phenomenon that would have implications not only for cricket but for national security as a whole.

(e) MANIPULATIONS :

Betting on cricket, having emerged as a major organised racket, it makes sound common sense for both bookies and punters to manipulate results according to their financial interests. For example, if a bookie wants to 'fix' a favourite team to lose, he would naturally rake in a huge amount of money at the cost of punters who generally place bets on the favourite team. A punter can also 'fix' a team according to his financial interests and place heavy bets with a number of bookies which would result in major gains for him. Our enquiry has disclosed that results of cricket matches are manipulated or attempted to be manipulated by both the bookies as well as punters. Apart from 'fixing' matches, 'performance fixing' of individual players can also help the betting syndicate in 'spread betting'. Specific details of this aspect will be discussed later.

(a)SECTION-III (STATEMENTS)

REPORT ON PLAYER/BETTING SYNDICATE LINKAGES:

After collecting all relevant material/evidence, individual players, ex-players, officials, bookies, punters, and others were examined and they were confronted with the evidence at hand which the CBI had gathered. Thereafter their statements were recorded. It is, however, emphasised at the very outset that the cricketing fraternity, generally speaking, maintained a “conspiracy of silence” and were rarely forthcoming with any specific information relevant to the enquiry. Not a single player/ex-player/official etc., other than those who had made vague and general allegations in the media, volunteered any information to CBI. In spite of the resistance offered by the players, ignorance feigned by ex-players and officials connected with the game, the CBI was able to collect evidence through painstaking and meticulous efforts. Confronted with the evidence gathered, some players/others, in spite of their stubborn denials, broke down and disclosed their involvement in the malpractices in various degrees.

Although a number of bookies, punters, present and past cricket players, board officials and others were examined, the statements of persons who are relevant to the enquiry at this point of time alone are summarised and evidence against individual players/others is discussed in detail.

(a) Statements:

MUKESH KUMAR GUPTA @ M.K. GUPTA @ M.K. @ JOHN

M.K. Gupta @ MK @ John, a prominent bookie of Delhi, was initially employed with Syndicate Bank as a Clerk from 1982 till 1989 when he resigned. His father was a Government employee in UP and after retirement took up employment with Ghanewala Mithai Shop in Chandni Chowk area. His father is presently assisting him in running his jewellery show room by the name AMS Jewellers at H-81, South Extension, Part-I, New Delhi.

He stated that he got interested in cricket betting in the year 1984 after India had won the World Cup in 1983. One day, he was walking on the street near his residence at Mohalla Dassan and saw some people betting for small amounts in a cricket match and this caught his attention. He started betting with them on a small scale after banking hours. Since the people involved in this business were not well educated and did not have much knowledge of cricket, he started reading about cricket from books, magazines, newspapers, etc. He updated his knowledge by listening to BBC and gathered a lot of information. In this manner, he used to place intelligent bets and he made more money than other people involved in betting. Since he was very prompt in his payments, the bookies also started having trust in him and his volume of betting increased. He shifted his betting activity thereafter to bigger bookies operating at Chandni Chowk, Ghanta

Ghar. He was also betting at Karol Bagh and Patel Nagar with one Sikh gentleman whose name he was unable to recollect. Thereafter, he was introduced to one Anand Saxena who was a keen punter in Cricket as well as Tennis, Foot Ball, Hockey, etc. and this introduction was through a bank customer.

By the year 1986, he had made a good amount of money and he thought he should go to Bombay and start betting with the biggest bookies of that time, Mama and Kamate. Their reference was given to him by one R.P. Singh, who was a veteran in the betting field at Delhi. Accordingly, in May 1986, he went to Bombay with the address and telephone numbers of Mama and Kamate and opened his account with them and came back to Delhi. Since he had to give business on a regular basis to Mama and Kamate, he became a bookie on a partnership basis with Anand Saxena in Delhi.

In 1988, he went to watch the Ram Charan Aggarwal Tournament being played at Delhi between different clubs. There he saw Ajay Sharma playing in a particular match in which he made a quick 50 or 100. After that match, he went to Ajay Sharma and paid him an amount of Rs.2,000/- as a token of his appreciation and also told him that if he had any problem in life, he could contact MK and also gave his telephone number. He stated that he did this since he thought Ajay Sharma had talent and it was an investment with the hope that some day he could reap the benefits. After about 15 days, Ajay Sharma got in touch with him again and a relationship between them started. This was to prove beneficial to both.

In the year 1990, India was touring New Zealand and both Ajay Sharma and Manoj Prabhakar were in the team. MK requested Ajay Sharma over telephone from India to introduce Manoj Prabhakar to him and MK talked to Prabhakar from India over telephone. During that tour to New Zealand, he used to regularly ring up Ajay Sharma and gather information about the weather, pitch, team composition, etc., and based on that information, he used to operate his business and made a good amount of money. He does not remember if he had paid any money to Ajay Sharma for this, but said that he may have given him some gifts.

After the New Zealand tour, India was scheduled to tour England, but Ajay Sharma was dropped from the team. MK requested Ajay Sharma to personally introduce Manoj Prabhakar to him, which Ajay Sharma duly did and Prabhakar was paid a sum of Rs.40,000/- to help MK during the England tour. MK also promised him to pay money equivalent to a Maruti Gypsy which Manoj Prabhakar wanted to purchase, if he could provide useful information during the England tour. According to MK, Manoj Prabhakar gave him information about all aspects of the Indian team and he also underperformed in one of the test matches which ended in a draw. After the tour, when the team came back to India, MK fulfilled his promise and paid money to Manoj Prabhakar to buy a Maruti Gypsy with wide tyres. Somewhere around that time, MK also visited Manoj Prabhakar's

house in Ghaziabad and had dinner with him. Manoj Prabhakar promised to introduce him to other international players against a payment of Rs.50,000/- each, and after dinner that night, spoke to Gus Logie of West Indies over telephone. However, Gus Logie refused to cooperate in any manner with them.

MK further stated that, sometime thereafter, the Sri Lankan team visited India and Manoj Prabhakar introduced Arvinda D'Silva to him for a price. MK established good rapport with Arvinda D'Silva. Later, MK contacted D'Silva for an introduction to Martin Crowe and D'Silva called Martin Crowe over telephone and told him about MK. Accordingly, MK met Martin Crowe in 1991 in New Zealand and also had lunch in his house. MK added that Martin's wife Simone was also present during the meeting. MK has stated that he paid a sum of \$20,000 to Martin Crowe in exchange for information about the pitch, weather, team composition, etc. whenever the New Zealand team played. MK however stated that Martin Crowe refused to fix any matches for him.

Around that period, there was a match between Wills Cup Winners of Pakistan and Wills Cup Winners of India at Feroze Shah Kotla, Delhi. He does not remember the name of the Pakistan team, but remembers that it was captained by Javed Miandad. MK requested Prabhakar to introduce him to Salim Malik, which he did. He thereafter met Salim Malik at Hotel Maurya Sheraton and struck a deal with him to fix that match without the knowledge of Javed Miandad. The Pakistani team lost the match after a close finish and he paid a sum of Rs.8 lakhs to Salim Malik and MK also earned roughly around the same amount. He does not know who were the other players whom Salim Malik had roped in to fix this match.

By now MK realised the importance of having information about weather, pitch, etc., and chose a young boy, Sanjay Sharma, who was living in his locality, and trained him to gather information about the nature of the pitch, team composition, weather, etc. and sent him to England. Sanjay Sharma's job was to gather all relevant information from the local newspapers, TV, etc., and pass on the same to MK. This helped him a great deal in his business.

Somewhere around this period, there were some festival matches in Sri Lanka and many international players were also taking part in it. Manoj Prabhakar was also playing in that series. MK rang up Manoj Prabhakar from India and requested him to introduce some Australian players who were also taking part in that tournament. Manoj Prabhakar rang him back and informed him that all the teams were staying at Hotel Taj Samundra, Colombo and he could introduce Dean Jones to him. MK immediately left for Colombo. Manoj Prabhakar was paid a sum of Rs.2 lacs for this information. MK offered an amount of \$40,000 to Dean Jones to give him information about the Australian team's strategy, morale, team composition and about the probable result etc. whenever Australians played. Dean Jones promised to think about the offer. During that series,

Manoj Prabhakar also introduced Brian Lara and Ranatunga to MK. However, they were not paid any money. MK came back to India and Manoj Prabhakar also came back with him in the same flight. After returning to India, Dean Jones rang up MK and told him that he could not accept MK's offer since he suspected that Alan Border had seen them talking together in the hotel lobby and if he came to know about this, Dean Jones' career could be in jeopardy.

In a Ranji Trophy Quarter final match between Delhi and Bombay in 1991, Manoj Prabhakar gave MK the information that some of the Delhi players were scheduled to play league cricket in England on dates which clashed with further Ranji Trophy matches, and hence they had decided to lose this match. The Delhi side comprised Kirti Azad, Maninder Singh, Atul Wasson, K.P. Bhasker, Ajay Sharma, Bantu Singh, Prabhakar and others. MK paid some money to Manoj Prabhakar for this information, but he does not know whether this money was shared by him with any of the other players. Delhi lost that match on the basis of first innings lead of one run.

In the year 1992, India played a series in Australia just prior to the World Cup and MK struck a deal with Manoj Prabhakar that some of the matches in that series would be fixed. Manoj allegedly claimed that N.S. Sidhu was also with him in this deal. According to MK, in two one-dayers against Australia, he made good money on the basis of Manoj Prabhakar's information. However, during the World Cup, 1992, MK has stated that he lost a huge amount of money since nothing worked according to his plans. Meanwhile, Manoj Prabhakar had also introduced Mark Waugh to M.K. during a six-a-side cricket tournament in Hongkong. MK paid a sum of \$ 20,000 to Mark Waugh in exchange of information regarding team morale, discussions taking place during team meetings, percentage of chances of winning or losing, etc. regarding the Australian team. Manoj Prabhakar was also paid money for arranging this meeting.

In 1993, England team visited India and MK requested Manoj Prabhakar to introduce him to Alec Stewart. He paid a sum of 5000 Pounds to Alec Stewart who agreed to give MK information about weather, wicket, team composition, etc., whenever the English team played. Stewart refused to fix any matches for him. Manoj Prabhakar was also paid some money for arranging this meeting with Alec Stewart. During that series, Manoj Prabhakar claimed that he had fixed two one-day matches played at Gwalior and informed MK. However, his information proved incorrect. India won both the matches and MK suffered a huge loss. However, he recovered some of his losses in the one-day match at Bangalore on the basis of information provided by Manoj Prabhakar. In most of the matches fixed by Manoj Prabhakar, he used to claim that N.S. Sidhu was also with him.

MK stated that during that series, he also met Umpire Piloo Reporter who assured him that he would give his assessment of matches during that series. According to MK, Reporter's assessment of the first test at Calcutta turned out to be true and he paid him a small amount of money.

MK further stated that when Sri Lanka toured India in 1994, Ranatunga and Arvinda D'Silva agreed to underperform in the first test at Lucknow. They also told him that they had not taken other players into confidence but could manage it since they were the Captain and Vice-Captain of the team. Accordingly, Sri Lanka lost the first test and MK made a good deal of money. MK stated that he paid \$ 15,000 to D'Silva after the Test. He also stated that both Ranatunga and D'Silva were also ready to fix the other tests, but the 'odds' were very low. MK also had a suspicion that they had fixed the other matches through Manoj Prabhakar with somebody else and hence did not take much interest. Around this time, his relationship with Manoj Prabhakar deteriorated since he had become very money-minded and had also got involved with other bookies of Delhi and Bombay, and even with some big punters.

In 1994 there was a series in Sharjah in which India, Australia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan were scheduled to play. Manoj Prabhakar was not in the Indian team. MK went to Sharjah and met Mark Waugh and Salim Malik. Salim Malik refused to "do" any matches for MK since he had become the captain and Mark Waugh also refused any information. MK came back to India a dejected man without any gains.

In 1994, there was another tournament in Sri Lanka, the Singer Cup, in which India, Pakistan and Australia were playing. During that series, MK rang up Salim Malik and requested him to do something for him. Salim Malik gave him an information that Pakistan will lose a particular match against Australia which came out true and he made good money on that.

By the end of 1994, disputes arose between MK and Anand Saxena, his partner, mainly because of Anand Saxena's womanising and also because he had contracted some illness. MK has stated that Anand Saxena had cancer and thought it might be infectious. His relationship with Manoj Prabhakar also reached a stage where MK stopped trusting him. Most of his information had started turning out to be incorrect but his demands for money kept on increasing. MK discontinued his association with both Anand Saxena and Manoj Prabhakar around this time. MK has however stated that Anand Saxena continued his friendship with Manoj Prabhakar since both of them had similar habits. By the end of 1994, Mukesh Gupta stopped book making and became a punter.

Towards the end of 1994, West Indies came to India and MK met Brian Lara again. Brian Lara offered to underperform in two one-day matches and his information proved correct and MK made some money by betting on those matches. MK stated that he gave a sum of around \$40,000 to Brian Lara for his information. During his career as a punter, MK was mainly involved with the Bombay bookie Anil Steel who became his close friend.

MK further stated that around this time Ajay Sharma renewed his contacts with MK once again and asked him for a sum of Rs.15,000/- to help him purchase a Zen Car as he was running short of money. During their meeting, MK gave him the money and Ajay Sharma promised him that he could introduce Mohd. Azharuddin to him which could prove beneficial to both. Accordingly, Ajay Sharma fixed a meeting with Azharuddin at Taj Palace in Delhi some time in 1995. Ajay Sharma was paid a sum of Rs.5 lacs for arranging this meeting and Azharuddin agreed to 'do' some matches for him. Azharuddin was paid a sum of Rs.50 lakhs as an advance with the arrangement that the initial amount would be adjusted against the matches he would 'do' for MK. Azharuddin promised MK that he would provide the exact information as to when India would win or lose. He does not remember the exact number of matches which Azhar did for him during this period. MK has stated that he also visited Calcutta during the inaugural Ceremony of World Cup in 1996. There, he was introduced to Asif Iqbal by Anil Steel who was in very good terms with Asif Iqbal.

Sometime in October, 1996, Ajay Sharma contacted MK and told him that in the Australia- India Test match at Delhi, he could get the pitch prepared in such a way that there would be a definite result in that match. Ajay Sharma told him that this could be done through a groundsman of Feroze Shah Kotla. Accordingly, MK met the groundsman of Feroze Shah Kotla along with Ajay Sharma and a result-oriented pitch was prepared. Since the pitch was spinner- friendly, that particular match ended in around 3 1/2 days and MK made a good amount of money as a punter. MK paid a sum of Rs.3 lakhs to Ajay Sharma after this match.

Around this time, Azharuddin agreed to 'do' some matches for MK in the Titan Cup series. However, some of Azhar's information proved incorrect, and even the agreement that India would lose the final to South Africa did not materialise, and MK and Anil Steel incurred heavy losses and were almost broke. Thereafter, MK went to Sharjah during an ongoing tournament and, through Asif Iqbal, met Jaisurya. But Jaisurya refused to 'do' any matches for MK. After coming back to India, Anil Steel asked MK to meet Azharuddin again and request him to make up for the losses during Titan Cup. Accordingly, MK took Ajay Sharma along with him and went to Hyderabad and met Azharuddin at his residence. During the meeting, Azharuddin promised him that he would make up for the losses during the Titan Cup.

Accordingly, MK went to Ahmedabad during the first test between India and South Africa where he was introduced to Dr. Ali Irani by Azharuddin. Dr. Ali Irani also promised him that Azharuddin would compensate for his losses. Azhar told MK to make future payments to him through Dr. Ali Irani.

According to MK, Azharuddin told him that the Ahmedabad test would not end in a draw, and India won that match and MK recovered around 30% of his losses. In the

second test at Calcutta, Azharuddin informed him that India would lose the test and the result was on similar lines, and MK made up around 60% of his losses.

In the third test at Kanpur, MK went to Kanpur and requested Azharuddin to introduce him to Hansie Cronje. Accordingly, Azharuddin introduced him to Hansie Cronje as a diamond merchant, and MK asked Hansie Cronje his opinion about the fate of the test. This was on the third day of the test when the position of South Africa was already precarious. Hansie Cronje told MK that South Africa would lose the test and MK paid a sum of \$ 40,000 to Hansie Cronje for this information and as a future investment. Hansie Cronje also asked him to meet him in Bombay for the Mohinder Amarnath benefit match. However, when he met MK at 3 a.m. on the day of the match, Cronje informed MK that he was not in a position to do anything about this match.

Somewhere around this time, Ajay Sharma had introduced Ajay Jadeja also to MK. Both of them had gone to his residence at Defence Colony along with a girl, and Ajay Jadeja offered to “do” some matches for him. When MK asked about other players with whom he could tie up, Ajay Jadeja could promise only Nayan Mongia. MK did not go ahead with this offer. However, Ajay Jadeja was paid a sum of Rs.50,000/- during his visit to MK’s residence.

In 1996, during India’s tour to South Africa, MK also visited South Africa. Before that tour, MK had paid around Rs.10 lakhs to Azharuddin and also paid a sum of Rs. 5 lacs to Dr. Ali Irani. However, at this point of time, Azhar’s predictions were not proving correct and MK thought he should cultivate the South African team. He came back to India between the second and third tests and rang up Hansie Cronje who assured him that South Africa would lose the third test. However, that test was drawn. Sometime during that period, MK had transferred around \$ 50,000 to the bank account of Hansie Cronje in South Africa. He went back to South Africa during the one-day series but stated that Hansie Cronje did not gather courage to meet him, since he had misled him about the 3rd test. However, he left a message on his mobile phone that he should forget the past and talk to him. Hansie Cronje rang up MK and apologised and promised him that South Africa would lose some of the one-day matches and he would provide the exact information. MK has stated that all the information provided by Hansie Cronje turned out incorrect and he suffered huge losses. When he spoke to Hansie Cronje about this, Cronje told him that India had played so badly and missed so many chances that he could not do anything about the result.

After coming back to India, Azharuddin promised that he would ‘do’ some matches for him during the Sahara Cup Tournament at Toronto in 1997. He informed MK that his wife Sangita Bijlani would ring him up and provide necessary information. MK stated that most of Sangita’s predictions turned out incorrect and MK got the feeling that the couple were misguiding him. MK thought that either Azharuddin was perhaps involved

with some other bookies at that time or he did not have the requisite number of players to fix a match. During his association with Azhar, MK must have paid him around Rs.90 lakhs, which also included the money paid through Dr. Ali Irani. However, a few months after the Sahara Cup 1997, MK asked Azhar to return some of his money since his information had proved useless. He stated that he recovered around 30 lakhs in instalments which he collected from Azhar's locker at Hotel Taj Palace through one Anil Saxena, an employee of Hotel Taj Palace, who was a close friend of Azhar and also from Ajay Sharma who had come to deposit some money in the same locker. MK also revealed that Azharuddin had a permanent locker at Hotel Taj and used to operate it through Anil Saxena, who had the keys.

MK disclosed that Manoj Prabhakar was also in good terms with another punter Tipu Kohli during his association with MK. MK further revealed the name of one Gyan Gupta and his family members and stated that they were also into match fixing. He added that the Pakistan team was very close to a bookie named Hanif Cadbury who was killed some time back in South Africa and most probably they were 'doing' matches for him also.

MK revealed that all payments made by him in foreign exchange were transacted through hawala channels and foreign exchange was obtained from touts operating in Jama Masjid area in Delhi.

MK completely left betting and all other association with book making in May, 1998.

ANIL NAGADA @ ANIL STEEL

Anil Steel, a bookie of Mumbai, stated that he had started his career as a bookmaker in 1992 and came in touch with Mukesh Kumar Gupta of Delhi sometime in 1994. He stated that M.K. Gupta was very close to Manoj Prabhakar and Azharuddin in the Indian team. Through them, he used to fix matches and accordingly place bets and operate his business. Sometime in 1994-95, when the West Indies team visited India, MK had fixed some one in the West Indies team and both of them made good money during that series. In 1996, M.K. Gupta had fixed some matches through Azharuddin in the Titan Cup but some of the information provided by Azharuddin had proved incorrect and both himself and M.K. lost a lot of money. After this series, he became a defaulter in the market and ran away to Goa since he was unable to pay his customers. MK had told him that he had met Hansie Cronje at Kanpur when the South Africans had visited India. He also stated that MK was very close to Arvinda D'Silva and Ranatunga. Anil Steel admitted that during his dealings with Mukesh Gupta, on two occasions, he had made payments of around Rs.20-25 lacs on MK's behalf to Dr. Ali Irani at Nanawati Hospital, Bombay. MK had told him that the payment was meant for Mohd. Azharuddin for the information provided by him.

Anil Steel also stated that he was introduced to Asif Iqbal by one D.P. Javeri, who is a jeweller at Bombay. This introduction took place sometime in 1995. At present, he and Asif Iqbal are on very friendly terms and when ever Asif Iqbal visits Bombay, he calls on Anil Steel and has on some occasions visited his residence along with his family. Asif Iqbal provides Anil Steel information about the pitch, weather, probable results, etc. in cricket matches throughout the world and Anil has also given some gifts of jewellery items etc. to Asif Iqbal and his family in return for this information. Anil Steel introduced Mukesh Kumar Gupta to Asif Iqbal in 1996 in Calcutta during the World Cup inaugural Ceremony. He had also met Ajay Jadeja in Mukesh Kumar Gupta's hotel room around that time. He lost a heavy amount of money as a result of his association with Mukesh Gupta and stopped contacts with him some time in 1997.

ANAND SAGAR SAXENA @ ANAND @ CHIKNA

Anand Sagar Saxena @ Chikna, a bookie of Delhi, stated that sometime in 1986-87, he came to know Mukesh Kumar Gupta and became his partner in bookmaking. In the World Cup of 1987, both of them had earned a good amount of money through betting. When asked about his links with Manoj Prabhakar, he stated that he was very friendly with Manoj Prabhakar and he came in touch with him since Anand Saxena's wife runs a Beauty Parlour and Manoj Prabhakar's wife visited that Beauty Parlour and through her, he came in contact with Manoj Prabhakar. On being asked whether he was not in touch with Manoj Prabhakar during the latter's association with MK, he stated that perhaps it was possible that he had met him then, but MK was very secretive about his links with cricket players.

Anand Saxena stated that he was not directly involved with any player and basically used to maintain books for MK and deal with payment of punters, etc. Sometime in 1994, his relationship with Mukesh Kumar Gupta deteriorated leading to an end to their partnership. Manoj Prabhakar is friendly with him even now and some times places bets on cricket matches through him. He is a partner in Hotel 'Pearl' at Mussoorie and Manoj Prabhakar has often availed of his hospitality in Mussoorie. He stated that Manoj Prabhakar was also close to one Tipu Kohli, a punter. According to him, some of the names which figure in the bookie circles with regard to match fixing are Rattan Mehta, Gyan Gupta and his family.

SANJIV KOHLI @ TIPU KOHLI

Sanjiv Kohli has a chain of restaurants by the name Moti Mahal in different parts of Delhi. He is a punter and places bets on cricket matches with some of the Delhi bookies, namely, Hans and Deepak and also with Shobhan Mehta of Bombay. He started placing

bets on cricket matches in the year 1992 on a small scale and has continued to do so ever since. He knows Manoj Prabhakar from around 1992. He first met him in South Delhi Club and came to know that he was very close to one Anand Saxena who is a well known bookie. Thereafter, their relationship started and he used to meet him in a number of parties off and on. Sanjiv Kohli further stated that as he was a punter, he thought some advance information about cricket matches would be useful for him. As his relationship with Manoj Prabhakar grew, he started asking him for information regarding pitch, weather, etc. He was in touch with him when England visited India in 1993 and subsequently in some other series also. As far as he remembers, he had paid Manoj around Rs.1 lakh to provide information in matches in which he played. On some occasions, he may have given Manoj some gifts, etc. for the information he had provided, but does not remember the details. Sanjiv Kohli started feeling that some of the information provided by Manoj Prabhakar was not correct and therefore stopped having any contacts with him. The last time he met Manoj Prabhakar was when Manoj stood for Parliamentary elections. Manoj had also asked him for some money to finance his election which he refused.

Kohli stated that he had been close to Rattan Mehta for many years, but, around 3-4 years ago, he developed some differences with him during a Sri Lanka-Pakistan match. This was most probably in the year 1997. There was a cricket series in Sri Lanka and Rattan Mehta was also in Sri Lanka. Rattan rang him up one day and informed that he had fixed the Pakistan team and asked him for Rs.25 lacs to pay to them. At that point of time, Sanjiv told Rattan that since Sri Lanka were already the favourites there was no point in fixing the Pakistan team which was anyway expected to lose. Thereafter, Rattan asked him to place bets on his behalf in favour of Sri Lanka winning, but since Pakistan was playing well in that match, Sanjiv did not do so. Pakistan eventually lost the match, and when Rattan Mehta returned to India, he demanded Rs.20 lacs from him to pay up the Pakistan players. Sanjiv, however, told Rattan that he had not made any money on his information so he did not pay Rattan because of which they had a fight. Thereafter, Tipu's contacts with Rattan Mehta ceased.

Sanjiv further stated that he had heard that Rattan was extremely close to the Pakistan team and that he also enjoyed an excellent relationship with Ajay Jadeja.

RAM ADHAR @ CHOUDHARY

Ram Adhar @ Choudhary, an employee of DDCA for the past 25-30 years, works as groundsman at Feroze Shah Kotla. Choudhary knows Ajay Sharma very well. In the year 1996, before the India-Australia Test Match at Feroze Shah Kotla, Ajay Sharma contacted him 3-4 days prior to the match and told him to meet him on a particular date at Rajghat. Choudhary went to Rajghat on that particular date and Ajay Sharma was present there along with another person. They made him sit in their car and told him that the pitch

for the India-Australia Test should be prepared in such a way that it was result-oriented. Accordingly, he had prepared the pitch and the India-Australia match concluded in just over three and a half days. Choudhary confessed that Ajay Sharma gave him a sum of Rs.50,000/- for this.

DEEPAK RAJOURI

Deepak Rajouri, another bookie of Delhi stated that he had been a Cricket Bookie for the past 6 years or so and runs the books along with his younger brother Jyoti Kumar. He knows most of the big bookies of Delhi and Bombay and provided a list of their names.

Rajouri denied that he knew any present or past Indian players. He denied being involved in match fixing. On being asked about other punters/bookies who may be involved in match fixing, he stated that one Rattan Mehta was reportedly involved in match fixing and was also allegedly very close to Ajay Jadeja. From the bookie circles, he came to know that during the India-New Zealand Test at Ahmedabad in 1999, Rattan Mehta had advance information that the match would end in a draw. He also stated that one Gyan Chand Gupta, his family, and an associate Ajay Gupta of Delhi were also suspected to be in match fixing and perhaps operated through Azharuddin. They place their bets with one Tinku and Babloo who, in turn, place further bets with Deepak. When the bets placed by Tinku and Babloo exceeded normal limits, he was suspicious that the matches in which they were placing bets were fixed and stopped taking bets from them around 4-5 months ago.

SANJEEV SACHER @ BABLOO

Sanjeev Sacher @ Babloo, another bookie of Delhi stated that he got into cricket betting around 3-4 years ago and for the past 2 years or so he had become a Bookie along with his friend Navin Sachdeva @ Tinku who is his partner. One Ameesh Gupta S/o Gyan Gupta studied in the same school as himself and was on very friendly terms with both himself and Tinku. Ameesh Gupta is also a keen punter and he is the single biggest customer for himself and Tinku. The amount of bets placed by Ameesh Gupta range between Rs.1-10 lakhs depending on the matches. Babloo stated that he further placed bets with bigger bookies of Delhi like Deepak Rajouri, Hans, Amarjeet, Jony, Pankaj etc.

NAVEEN SACHDEVA @ TINKU

Naveen Sachdeva @ Tinku stated that for the past 2 years or so he has been a part time bookmaker with his friend Sanjeev Sacher @ Babloo. They maintained books mainly for one Ameesh Gupta S/o Gyan Chand Gupta with whom he studied during his school days.

It was Ameesh Gupta who encouraged them to become bookies and he is their key customer. He has contacts with other bookies of Delhi including Deepak Rajouri and Amarjeet. On being asked, he stated that he did not personally know Ajay Gupta or Gyan Gupta. He believed that the bets placed by Ameesh Gupta were in their knowledge. He also stated that Ameesh Gupta was most probably in Dubai for the past 2-3 months and when he placed bets, he used cell phone numbers - 98-111-07775 and 98-100-54395.

JAI BHAGWAN GUPTA

Jai Bhagwan Gupta stated that Gyan Gupta's brother's wife was his sister. Ajay Gupta, Ameesh Gupta and Gyan Gupta used to place bets through him and he used to place those bets further with Poley and Hans, both bookies of Delhi. On being asked why the aforesaid persons placed bets through him when they could have done directly with some bookie, he stated that he had requested them to do so since he also used to make some money in the bargain.

NISHIT GOEL

Nishit Goel stated that one Ajay Gupta is his cousin and both of them own petrol pumps and have been members of the Roshanara Club for the past 8 years or so. He knows one Sanjay Anand who is also a member of Roshanara Club, and through him met Ajay Sharma. Sanjay Anand knew Ajay Sharma since the latter was also an Honorary member of Roshanara Club and used to coach the children of Club members. Ajay Sharma also knows his cousin Ajay Gupta.

In May, 1998, Goel was present during a meeting which took place in Ajay Gupta's office. The others present included Ajay Sharma, Sanjay Anand and perhaps Ameesh Gupta and Gyan Gupta. At that meeting, an offer of Rs.5 lakhs each was made to Ajay Sharma and Sanjay Anand if they could help in getting Azharuddin to fix matches for them. Both of them accepted the offer and promised that they would talk to Azharuddin. However, he claimed no money was paid to them in his presence. But, Sanjay Anand, sometime thereafter, had told him that he was paid Rs. 5 lakhs by Ajay Gupta and party for helping them to rope in Azharuddin. He had also heard that the India-Pakistan one-day match in 1999 at Jaipur was fixed by Ajay Gupta and party through Azhar and they had made good money on that.

Nishit Goel claimed that he himself was a punter and had placed bets with some of the bookies of Delhi, including Surender Mandi. According to him, sometime in July, 1998, there was a series in Sri Lanka and Azharuddin had agreed to lose certain matches as part of a deal with Ajay Gupta and party, but since those matches were won by India, he had heard that Ajay Gupta and party lost a lot of money. Again, sometime in September-October, 1998, Ajay Gupta and Ameesh Gupta had perhaps visited Toronto during the Sahara Cup and tried to fix some matches through Azhar. But again things did not work

out and they had lost a lot of money. He had heard that in July, 1999 during the World Cup, Ajay Gupta and Ameesh had visited England.

Nishit Goel further stated that he had heard that an amount of Rs.25 lakhs was paid by Ajay Gupta and party to Azharuddin initially. He was, however, not present during this payment. He was introduced to Azharuddin by Ajay Sharma at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi and thereafter met him once or twice. He accepted that he had made some payments towards Azharuddin's stay in Hotel Taj Palace, Delhi 2-3 times since Ameesh Gupta had asked him to do so. However, he could not satisfactorily explain why he had made those payments and stated that he was very close to Ajay Gupta and Gyan Gupta and he made those payments at their request. As far as he knows, Gyan Chand Gupta, Ajay Gupta and Ameesh Gupta have been punters for the past 3-4 years. They have been placing bets with various bookies of Delhi including Tinku and Babloo and also through one Jai Gupta of Rajouri Garden, who is related to Gyan Gupta.

AJAY GUPTA

Ajay Gupta, one of the punters/fixers, stated that he had a number of Petrol Pumps in Delhi and had very close ties with one Gyan Chand Gupta and his family with whom he also had a partnership for exporting of rice to Dubai. He knew Ajay Sharma for quite a few years. He met him at the Roshanara Club since both were members. He met Azharuddin in 1998 through Ajay Sharma for the first time in Hotel Taj Palace, SP Marg. Azharuddin had told him that he had a letter of intent for allotment of petrol pump in the discretionary quota for Bangalore city which he had got way back in 1996 through the then Minister of Petroleum. Since the matter of discretionary quota is under litigation at present, he had asked Ajay Gupta to pursue his case. Thereafter, whenever Azharuddin visited Delhi, Ajay Gupta used to meet him to obtain his autograph, etc. for his children. He completely denied that he was into match fixing or he ever placed bets during cricket matches. He stated that all his cell phone conversation with Azharuddin related to Azharuddin's problem with the petrol pump allotment. He added that he was in England during World Cup, 1999 in connection with the admission of his son and that Ameesh S/o Gyan Chand Gupta had also come there after a holiday in Switzerland. On being asked whether they met Azharuddin and whether Ameesh paid for Azharuddin's shopping at Harrods, he stated that he had no knowledge of the same. On being asked why he had tendered an affidavit at the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) offering to bear the expenditure of Ajay Sharma and his family to travel from India to UK during the World Cup, 1999, he, at first, stated that he did not recollect if he had done so. However, on being shown the said affidavit, he accepted that he had submitted this affidavit to help Ajay Sharma getting a visa for UK. On being asked as to why cell phone no. 98-111-50860 registered in the name of Gyan Chand Gupta's Company remained with Mohd. Azharuddin during cricket matches, he stated that he did not have any idea about the same.

SANJAY ANAND

Witness Sanjay Anand stated that he is a member of the Roshanara Club for the last 13-14 years and is involved in sports activities of the Club.

Sanjay Anand accepted that he had been betting on Cricket matches for the last few years with one Chhabra, resident of Ashok Vihar and with one Surinder Mandi. He knew Ajay Gupta, his cousin Nishit Goel and their family members since all of them were also members of Roshanara Club. He also knew Ajay Sharma who was an Honorary member of the Roshanara Club and had coached the children of Club Members.

Sanjay Anand stated that he was introduced to Azharuddin at Hotel Taj Palace sometime in 1996 by Ajay Sharma. He was keen on meeting Azharuddin since he was a cricket fan. Around the same time that he was introduced to Azhar, Ajay Sharma requested him to introduce Ajay Gupta to him since he was keen on approaching Ajay Gupta on behalf of Azharuddin for match fixing. Accordingly, he introduced Ajay Sharma to Ajay Gupta and Nishit Goel, and in that meeting, Ajay Sharma offered that Azharuddin could be of help in fixing matches. However, Ajay Gupta was not keen on the offer since Azharuddin was not the Captain at that time. Sanjay Anand further stated that he also knew that Ajay Gupta and Nishit Goel were also betting on cricket matches with Tinku, Babloo, Surinder Mandi and some other bookies. He stated that on one occasion he got payments for his gift items sold to Ajay Gupta through Babloo and Tinku.

In 1998, there was a meeting in Ajay Gupta's office at the request of Ajay Gupta where Sanjay Anand, Ajay Sharma, Nishit Goel were also present. At that meeting, Ajay Gupta requested him and Ajay Sharma to introduce Azhar to him for fixing matches for which he promised to give him and Ajay Sharma Rs.5 lakhs each. Sanjay stated that sometime after this meeting, Ajay Sharma introduced Azharuddin to Ajay Gupta at Hotel Taj Palace in Delhi, but later Ajay Sharma did not pay him his share of Rs. 5 lacs. When he approached Ajay Sharma for his share, Ajay Sharma told him that he had not received any payment from Ajay Gupta. However, sometime later when he checked with Nishit Goel, he came to know that Ajay Sharma had already been paid for introducing Azharuddin to Ajay Gupta.

ANIL SAXENA

Anil Saxena stated that he was previously working as Food & Beverages Manager at Hotel Taj Palace, S.P. Marg and had now been transferred from Delhi to Jaipur recently. He stated that Mohd. Azharuddin used to stay at Hotel Taj Palace whenever he visited Delhi, and over a period of time, they became good friends. He used to do odd jobs for Azharuddin, including picking up his wife from the airport when she came to Delhi.

Azharuddin had two lockers in the hotel when he was posted as Food & Beverages Manager there. On being asked how this was permitted even when Azharuddin was not a guest at Hotel Taj Palace, he stated that this was done under the permission of the GM of the Hotel. Anil Saxena revealed that whenever Azharuddin and Sangita Bijlani came to Delhi, they used to operate these lockers. Otherwise, the keys used to remain with him.

Once Ajay Sharma had come with a sum of Rs.15 lacs some years ago and Anil Saxena had opened the locker and deposited the amount in Azhar's lockers. This cash was in the denomination of Rs.50/- and Rs.100/- notes. Azharuddin had rung him up and directed him to pay around Rs.10 lacs to some person whose name he does not remember now. Thereafter he paid that amount to the person after verifying that Azharuddin had sent him. Sometime immediately after that, Azharuddin and Sangita Bijlani had come to Hotel Taj Palace with Ajay Sharma. He heard Ajay Sharma saying that he wanted some money to buy a flat and Sangita Bijlani took out Rs.5 lacs from the locker and paid Ajay Sharma in Anil Saxena's presence. After this, there were no more transactions in that locker.

PAWAN PURI

Pawan Puri has been running an Interior Decoration firm for the past 20 years and has two offices, one at Greater Kailash-I and one at Parliament Street, New Delhi. He stated that he was fond of betting on horses and cricket matches and had been betting on cricket through bookies, including Anand Saxena, Deepak and Sudesh of Delhi and Shobhan Mehta of Bombay. He is very friendly with Rattan Mehta whom he met around 10 years ago and said that Rattan Mehta was a big time punter, who usually bets around Rs.4-5 lacs in any single cricket match.

Pawan Puri stated that Rattan Mehta was very close to the Pakistan team and to Ajay Jadeja in the Indian team. He recalled an incident which occurred a few years ago in which Tipu Kohli and Rattan fought over a Sri Lanka-Pakistan match. It appeared to him that Rattan Mehta had fixed the Pakistan team to lose and had demanded Rs.25 lacs from Tipu Kohli to pay the Pakistan team which Tipu Kohli refused, and as a result, there was a fight which probably ruined their friendship. He further stated that when Pakistan team visited India sometime back, they were entertained by Rattan Mehta at his 'Mini Mahal' restaurant in Vasant Vihar.

According to Pawan, Rattan Mehta used to frequently ring up Ajay Jadeja on his mobile phone and was always secretive during his conversation with him. Once there was a party at his friend Dimpy's house on 31.10.99 to which both he and Rattan Mehta were also invited. Around 11 pm on that day he picked up Rattan Mehta from his house at Panchsheel Enclave to go to Dimpy's house which is at Sainik Farms. On the way, Rattan Mehta asked him to ring up Shobhan Mehta, a Bombay bookie, and asked him to place a bet to the effect that the ongoing match between India-New Zealand at Ahmedabad

would end in a draw. He was surprised as to how Rattan Mehta could anticipate this since New Zealand were in a precarious position on 31.10.99 and very few persons would have anticipated that the match would end in a draw. He dialed Shobhan's number and placed a bet to this effect. Even Shobhan Mehta was sceptical and since he was quite close to him, he advised him not to place this bet. However, he told Shobhan that he was placing bets on somebody else's behalf. On being asked as to why Rattan placed bets with Shobhan through him and not directly, he stated that Rattan does not have an account with Shobhan and hence he had to place this bet through him. At Dimpy's place, Rattan Mehta, after getting drunk, boasted that he had exact information about the outcome of the Ahmedabad Test match and also placed bets with some other bookies, whose names he did not remember.

On another occasion he had met Jadeja when he was flying from Bombay to Delhi. Around that time, a domestic series between India, India 'A' and India 'B' teams had just ended. Ajay Jadeja was the captain of the India 'B' team and he had heard in bookie circles that Ajay Jadeja had agreed to lose matches for India 'B' team at the behest of Rattan Mehta who made around Rs.20 lacs through betting in this series. When he told Ajay Jadeja that Rattan Mehta had made around Rs.20 lacs in that series, Ajay Jadeja told him that Rattan Mehta had told him that he had made only around Rs.1 or 2 lacs and that he would teach Rattan a lesson.

According to Pawan, there were strong rumors that whenever Ajay Jadeja fixed a match through Rattan Mehta, Azharuddin and Nayan Mongia were also parties in such an arrangement.

RATTAN MEHTA

Rattan Mehta, a big time punter of Delhi, stated that he was into cricket betting since 1990. At present he bets with Hans Kumar Jain, Poley and Vikas Sabharwal - all bookies of Delhi. He stated that he was on very friendly terms with Ajay Jadeja for the past many years. Ajay Jadeja had visited his Restaurant - Mini Mahal on many occasions.

Rattan Mehta claims that he has not fixed any cricket matches through Jadeja, but has however taken his 'judgement' on matches sometimes. He also denies paying any money to Jadeja. According to Rattan, Jadeja had not given him any information during the Challenger Trophy between India, India 'A' and India 'B'.

Rattan Mehta is also on friendly terms with many members of the Pakistan team. He met Javed Miandad sometime in 1994-95. Among the present Pakistan players, he is intimate with Wasim Akram, Waqar Younus, Inzamam-Ul-Haq and Saeed Anwar. According to Rattan, the Pakistan team visited his restaurant when they last toured India in 1999, and

he had taken the 'opinion' of Pakistan players on a few occasions. He had also given them 'small gifts'.

Asked about Tipu Kohli's statement that Rattan had fixed Pakistan team in a match during a series in Sri Lanka in 1997, he replied that Tipu Kohli was maligning him since they had a fight over some financial matters. Rattan admitted that on some occasions, he had stayed at the same hotel as the Pakistan team.

Rattan Mehta denied that he had any prior knowledge of India not enforcing the follow-on during the Ahmedabad Test, 1999. He stated that he merely told his friend Pawan Puri to get the 'odds' for a draw from Shobhan Mehta, the Bombay bookie.

UTTAM CHAND JAIN @ TOPI

Uttam Chand Jain @ Topi, a bookie of Chennai, stated that he was into Garment Export business. Originally, his father used to sell Dhotis and Topis and hence his nick name Topi. He was into book making in cricket matches from 1988 to 1993, and at present, has left book making to become a punter. He places bets with many prominent bookies of Bombay and Delhi including Shobhan Mehta, Anil Steel, Luxmi Chand Thana, Hitesh, Jayant Malad, Kothari, Jaya, Mahadev, Shanti, Kamadi and Vinod Chembur of Bombay and Hans, Poley, Anand Saxena, Sunil, Deepak and Shyam Gurnani of Delhi.

He had met Kapil Dev once, many years ago, at a function organised by some exporter of Madras whose name he does not recollect. He was also present during a card session with Kapil Dev. This was organised by one Hira Lal of Chennai who runs a gambling house from a hotel room at Hotel Adayar Park Sheraton in Madras. Kapil Dev had come there, and besides himself, one Ashok Jain and Raju were also present during the session. He stated that they played rummy and the stakes were not very high. He never met Kapil Dev thereafter nor did he telephonically contact him. He did not think that Kapil Dev knew that he was a cricket bookie.

He denied knowing any other cricket player present or past in the Indian team. However, on being shown the print outs of his cell phone number 98-480-037700 which showed a large number of calls to and from Ajay Jadeja's cell phone number 98-100-34882 just before or during cricket matches, he stated that he met Ajay Jadeja at a function at Chola Sheraton in Madras around 2-3 years ago. During that function, he approached Ajay Jadeja and introduced himself and obtained his cell phone number. He had been regularly ringing him up during cricket matches to get information about the pitch, weather, team composition, probable result, etc. which Jadeja used to provide him. He paid a sum of around Rs. 1 lakh to Jadeja, initially after introduction. Subsequently, he paid a sum of around 5 lacs to him when Jadeja was in Bombay recently during some match. This

money was transferred through Hawala channel through one Mool Chand who is in the Hawala racket in Chennai. Mool Chand had passed on this amount through some contact of his at Bombay. Uttam Chand had passed on a code to Ajay Jadeja through which he could receive the cash from Mool Chand's agent in Bombay. He stated that he had not fixed any matches through Jadeja and paid him only for the information he used to provide. He also places bets with one Dilip of Dubai, since he also takes bets on individual score, team score etc. which is not generally done by Indian bookies. He further stated that whenever he won bets with his Dubai contacts, the money was paid through Shobhan Mehta of Bombay since he also deals in Hawala.

RAJESH KALRA

Rajesh Kalra, a regular punter of Delhi, bets on cricket matches with bookies including Anand Saxena, Pappu Palika of Delhi and also with one Yasin of Bombay. He personally knew Ajay Jadeja, Nikhil Chopra and Manoj Prabhakar to whom he got introduced to during visits to the Gym at Hotel Park Royal and also the sports club at Siri Fort. According to Kalra, Manoj Prabhakar also placed bets on cricket matches through him, on some occasions for a sum of around Rs.30,000/- to Rs.40,000/-. On being asked whether he had received information through Nikhil Chopra about cricket matches, he stated that once, probably in the India-South Africa one-day match at Nagpur, he had rung up to find out whether Nikhil Chopra was in the team or not. He further stated that he wanted this information since Sanjiv Chawla had asked him to get the same. He also knows Ajay Jadeja very well and has contacted him on telephone on a couple of occasions.

SHOBHAN MEHTA

Starting as a small punter in 1985, he became a cricket bookie in 1987-88. He is in touch with bookies and punters of Bombay, Jaipur, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi. He has visited UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Hongkong, Singapore and Thailand. His younger brother Anish also assists him in book making and both of them are always available on telephone during a cricket match. According to him, in 1992, he was threatened by the Amar Naik gang and some time thereafter by Chotta Rajan and then by Chotta Shakeel in 1999. In view of this, he had been provided security by Mumbai Police which has however been withdrawn recently.

On being asked about his involvement with players, if any, he stated that he was purely into book making and had no links with players past or present. He categorically denied that he attended Sachin Tendulkar's wedding, and also stated that he did not know Sachin Tendulkar nor his wife's family. He provided a list of bookies and punters known to him.

DALEEP SETH @ SATYAM BABA

Daleep Seth @ Satyam Baba of Mumbai was examined to get an idea of the communication network being used by the betting syndicate. He stated that he had been running a PCO/STD booth with permission from MTNL since 1990 at 142-E, Shop No. 3, Lal Baba Mandir, Buleshwar Road, Mumbai. Initially he had a single line and thereafter continued to add one STD/PCO line every 3 months. He has Group EPABX facility of 200 lines and is allotted a series of telephone numbers - 3777500 to 3777599 and 3777700 to 3777799. He has installed a Mini Exchange also in which he is using 112 lines presently. Out of these 112 lines, 102 lines are being used as outgoing lines which are given to various subscribers and remaining 10 lines are used as incoming lines. He stated that the above said facility had been provided by MTNL. His Group EPABX facility is fully computerised and the subscribers pay the bills as per computer records and in turn he pays the MTNL. MTNL pays him a commission for such an arrangement.

On being asked, he stated that a number of bookies/punters from all over India and even abroad use his facility and in the bookie parlance this facility is called 'Dibba System'. Dibba system is a facility through which the telephone calls of bookies/punters from outside Bombay are connected to his STD/PCO booth and the lines are kept energised throughout the match and the prevailing 'odds' at Bombay are constantly transmitted. Those outside bookies who are connected to Satyam's Mumbai exchange also keep their telephone speakers on broadcasting rates to all the local bookies/punters who keep their local P&T lines energised, and connected with this local 'Dibba'. This way local bookies and punters, cut down on STD telephone costs as they do not have to directly get in touch with Mumbai to obtain 'odds'. If a particular bookie/punter from outside Bombay wants some information confidentially from a Bombay bookie, he can also dial a separate number at Satyam's exchange.

CRICKETERS/OFFICIALS QUESTIONED:

AJAY SHARMA

Ajay Sharma, the former Indian player, stated that he first played cricket for Delhi in 1984 when Mohinder Amarnath was the Captain. He played for India for the first time in 1987 and has in all played one Test Match and 33 one-day internationals.

Ajay Sharma played league cricket in Delhi, and in one of the league matches he played for the Sonnet Club in the Ram Charan Aggarwal tournament in the late 1980s, in a ground near Town Hall, Delhi, he scored a century. The spectators watching the match were happy with his performance and surrounded him on his way back to the pavilion. Some people also put some money in his pockets as a gesture. From the ground, he was escorted by his friend Sanjay Bharadwaj and some policemen. One of the persons from the crowd had dropped some money in his front shirt pocket about whom his friend Sanjay Bharadwaj later asked if he recognised that person. On his expressing ignorance

about the person, Sanjay Bharadwaj had told him that the man who had put money in his pocket was “M.K. Gupta” , who was involved in betting on cricket matches.

He denied that he provided information regarding weather, pitch etc., to M.K. Gupta during the Indian Team’s tour to New Zealand in 1990. But he remembered that ‘MK’ had rung up his hotel room during the New Zealand tour in 1990 and had talked to Manoj Prabhakar . After the New Zealand tour, Ajay Sharma was dropped from the Indian Team scheduled to tour England and it was during this period that he personally introduced Manoj Prabhakar to M.K. Gupta on the insistence of M.K. Gupta. Thereafter, he lost touch with M.K. Gupta who became close to Manoj Prabhakar.

About the Ranji Trophy Quarter Final match between Mumbai and Delhi held at Delhi in 1991, Ajay Sharma stated that, in that particular year, Bishen Singh Bedi had taken some court order due to which Ranji Trophy matches were delayed and that some of the Delhi players including himself and Manoj Prabhakar, Maninder Singh, Atul Wassan, Bhaskar Pillai, etc., were scheduled to play league cricket in England that year. However, since Ranji Trophy matches were delayed, if Delhi had won that round, the next round would have clashed with league commitments in England. In view of this, the players collectively decided to lose the match against Bombay. Bombay won this match on 1st innings lead of one run.

Ajay Sharma further stated that during 1993-94, he wanted to purchase a Zen Car on which there was a ‘black’ of Rs.15,000/- and as he did not have the money to pay the ‘black’, he contacted M.K. Gupta, who paid him the required Rs.15,000/-. Thus, his contacts with M.K. Gupta got renewed.

Sometime around that period, he met Azharuddin in Madras at Hotel Chola Sheraton. Ajay Sharma was in Madras playing the Buchi Babu Tournament. During his meeting with Azharuddin, Azhar asked him if he could get someone to sponsor a fashion-show and charity cricket matches which would cost around Rupees 1 crore . He told Azhar that he would talk to someone whom he knew in Delhi and he approached M.K. Gupta. M.K. Gupta agreed to provide Rs. 1 crore and he arranged a meeting for Azhar with M.K. Gupta in Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi in 1995. For arranging this meeting and introducing Azhar to M.K. Gupta, he was paid Rs. 5 lakhs by M.K. Gupta. Later, after about a month and half, Azhar rang him up and informed that the person he had introduced had paid him the money. Azhar also told him that M.K. Gupta was talking to him about ‘making’ cricket matches to which he told Azhar that he could consider it. Later, when M.K. Gupta and Azhar met him in Delhi, M.K. Gupta told Azhar that there was no need to pay back the money as it could be adjusted against the cricket matches that would be ‘made’.

Ajay Sharma further stated that once he had introduced Azhar to M.K. Gupta, they kept him out from their dealings and he, therefore, could not say specifically which matches they had fixed. However, during the Triangular Titan Cup Series in 1996 in India in which South Africa and Australia were also taking part, some complications arose between Azhar and M.K. Gupta. The latter two had decided to fix matches during the series but the result of one match did not turn out to be as arranged and M.K. Gupta lost a lot of money. M.K. Gupta held him also responsible for his loss as it was he who had introduced Azhar to M.K. Gupta and M.K. asked him to accompany him to Hyderabad just after the series to talk to Azhar regarding the loss suffered by him. He further stated that he travelled with M.K. Gupta to Hyderabad and stayed in a hotel very close to Azhar's house in Banjara Hills. They met Azhar in Hyderabad, and during the meeting, Azhar promised M.K. Gupta that he would make up his loss in the ensuing Test Series against South Africa.

Ajay Sharma also revealed that the other players through whom Azhar operated were Ajay Jadeja and Nayan Mongia. As far as his knowledge goes, Ajay Jadeja, N.S. Sidhu and Manoj Prabhakar also operated together. In fact, N.S. Sidhu once showed him a black bag containing a large sum of money and said that this was black money which would be converted into white by showing it as farm income.

Ajay Sharma further stated that during the Australia tour of India in 1996, M.K. Gupta had approached him and asked him if he could have a pitch prepared at the Feroze Shah Kotla Ground in Delhi which would lead to a certain result and for which M.K. promised to reward him and the groundsman suitably. In this connection, he spoke to groundsman Choudhary at Ferozshah Kotla and also arranged his meeting with M.K. Gupta near Rajghat. Choudhary accordingly prepared the desired wicket and a result was obtained in the test match in three and a half days. After that match, Ajay Sharma told M.K. Gupta that he be paid at least Rs.4-5 lacs for getting the wicket prepared as per his instructions, but M.K. Gupta paid him only Rs.3 lacs of which he gave Rs.50,000/- to the groundsman Choudhary and kept the remaining Rs.2.5 lakhs with himself.

Sometime in mid '90s', Ajay Sharma took Ajay Jadeja, along with a tall girl, to M.K. Gupta's house at Defence Colony at around 10.00 p.m. one night. The meeting was arranged at the instance of M.K. Gupta. Jadeja agreed to the meeting in spite of knowing that M.K. Gupta was a cricket bookie. At this meeting, Jadeja offered his services to M.K. Gupta to fix matches but M.K. wanted to know how many other players he could rope in. Not being satisfied with Jadeja's answer, the deal could not come through. However, M.K. Gupta paid Rs. 50,000/- to Jadeja during this meeting. Out of this amount, Jadeja gave Ajay Sharma Rs.18,000/- and kept Rs.32,000/- for himself saying that he wanted to buy a cellular phone which at that time cost around Rs. 32,000/-.

Ajay Sharma admitted that he knew Ajay Gupta, Ameesh Gupta and Gyan Chand Gupta and that he had introduced Ajay Gupta to Azhar. He was a regular visitor to Roshanara Club in Delhi where one Sanjay Anand who was involved in the management of the Club was well known to him. Sanjay Anand once approached him and told him that he had heard that cricket matches were being fixed and a lot of money was being made, that he had a party with him who could invest money and requested him to introduce Azharuddin to this party. Sanjay Anand probably approached him to introduce Azhar to the party as it was common knowledge that he was very close to Azhar. Sanjay Anand first introduced Ajay Sharma to Ajay Gupta. However, nothing came out of this meeting as Azhar was not the captain of the team at that time and Ajay Gupta said that nothing was possible unless Azhar became the Captain.

In 1998, when Azhar was the Captain, Ajay Gupta asked Sanjay Anand to talk to him to introduce Ajay Gupta to Azharuddin. Accordingly, he talked to Azhar who agreed to meet Ajay Gupta and he arranged the meeting at Taj Palace Hotel, Delhi, where an understanding to fix matches was reached. For arranging this meeting, Ajay Gupta gave Rs.5 lakhs each to him and to Sanjay Anand. Sanjay Anand picked up this money from the office of Ajay Gupta. Ajay Gupta later introduced Ameesh Gupta, S/o Gyan Chand Gupta to Azhar. Azhar was also given a mobile phone no. 98 111 50860 by the 'Guptas' for his use. He also stated that he knew through Sanjay Anand that all the three Guptas named earlier placed heavy bets with bookies during cricket matches. On being asked about the recent telephone calls made to Azhar just before or on the day of the matches, he stated that during these calls he used to wish Azhar "All the Best" and also asked him if he had spoken to the Guptas.

On being asked about one Anil Saxena of the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi, Ajay Sharma stated that he was very close to Azhar and that he also used to keep Azhar's money in the lockers in Taj Palace Hotel. On one occasion, on the instructions of Azhar, he had deposited Rs.15 lacs in the locker through Saxena in Taj Palace Hotel. He had received this money from Ajay Gupta on behalf of Azhar.

During the 1999 World Cup in England, Ajay Sharma had requested Ajay Gupta to fund him and his family to visit UK. Accordingly, Ajay Gupta arranged for his and his family's visit to England during World Cup 1999. Ajay Gupta also gave an affidavit in May, 1999 in his office at Central Warehousing Corporation that Ajay Gupta would meet all his expenditure during his visit to the UK as Ajay Sharma could not have shown such an expenditure, being a Government Servant.

On being asked as to whom the Opel Astra Car and mobile phone which were snatched from him in Gurgaon in January, 2000 belonged to, Ajay Sharma stated that the car belonged to Divya Nautiyal of Apace Finance Company and mobile phone was that of Ajay Gupta who had given it to him for his own use. He knows Divya Nautiyal for a very

long time as they had played cricket together. He had invested around Rs.5 lakhs with Divya Nautiyal of which he had been paid back only Rs.1.5 lakhs and the rest of the payment was stuck as the finance company was in trouble. He stated that Mohd. Azharuddin did not know Divya Nautiyal and both of them did not have any financial dealings also.

According to Ajay Sharma, Nikhil Chopra had once approached him and asked him whether he knew some bookies who took bets on cricket matches, as Nikhil's 'Sala' (brother-in-law) was interested in betting.

MANOJ PRABHAKAR

About the alleged offer made to him by Kapil Dev during the Singer Cup, 1994 in Sri Lanka, Manoj Prabhakar stated that, during the Singer Cup, he and Navjyot Singh Sidhu were room-mates in the hotel where the team was staying. The adjoining room in the hotel was connected to Manoj Prabhakar's room through a common door, and was occupied by Prashant Vaidhya and Nayan Mongia.

One day, when he was in the bath room, N.S. Sidhu called him and told him that 'Paaji' had come with some offer and wanted to talk to him. Thereafter, Kapil Dev told him that India had to lose the next match against Pakistan and Manoj Prabhakar will be paid Rs.25 lacs to underperform in that match. Manoj Prabhakar stated that he was flabbergasted at this offer and shouted at Kapil Dev. N.S. Sidhu was also present in the room at that time. Thereafter, Prashant Vaidhya and a Bengali journalist, who was sitting in Prashant Vaidhya's room, came to Prabhakar's room on hearing the commotion and asked him what had happened. Manoj Prabhakar told Prashant Vaidhya that Kapil Dev had offered him money to underperform. After this incident, he reported the matter to Ajit Wadekar, Manager of the team and also to Mohd. Azharuddin, the Captain of the team. He also informed Ravi Shastri and Sunil Gavaskar who were doing commentary during that series, after a few days. On being asked whether Kapil Dev made this offer to some of the other players in the team also, Prabhakar stated that he had no proof to corroborate this. On being asked why he did not disclose these facts before the Justice Chandrachud Commission, he stated that he wanted to disclose everything but Justice Chandrachud told him that he would not record anything which he would disclose and hence did not see any point in mentioning Kapil Dev's offer to him.

About his slow batting in the Kanpur One-Dayer against West Indies in 1994, Manoj stated that when Nayan Mongia came to bat, he told him that there were instructions from the dressing room that both of them should bat carefully and not lose their wickets. Nayan Mongia, till date, has not told him as to who was the person who had given him these instructions.

According to Manoj, one Hiren Hathi is very close to Kapil Dev and operates as his agent. Also, Kapil Dev was a gambler and played cards for very high stakes. Similarly, Ajay Sharma is very close to Mohd. Azharuddin and acts as his agent.

There was an incident in which the late Raman Lamba placed a bet of Rs.50,000/- in Prabhakar's name without his knowledge in a particular match. The opposition was batting second and he was bowling the last ball of the match with one wicket to go and one run to win. Prabhakar got the last man out and won the game for India. Thereafter, he received a telephone call from an unknown person who claimed himself to be a bookie and threatened him and told him that he had lost around Rs.85 lakhs.

Once, when Manoj was in the BCCI office in Bombay, one Prakash Kelkar introduced him to an unknown person. The latter requested Manoj Prabhakar to introduce him to some of the Indian players playing at that point of time in New Zealand. When asked about the purpose, that person revealed that he had lost a lot of money and had to make up for it by fixing certain matches through some Indian players. According to Prabhakar, he did not believe this man, whereupon the latter told him that he would ring up Ajit Wadekar and Mohd. Azharuddin and that Manoj Prabhakar could listen to the conversation on a parallel line. Thereafter, that person allegedly rang up Ajit Wadekar and Mohd. Azharuddin. To his shock, Manoj Prabhakar heard that both of them had a positive attitude towards fixing matches. Manoj Prabhakar alleged that this particular person had informed the team management that Manoj Prabhakar knew all about their activities and, from then on, he was harassed continuously by cricket authorities.

On being asked about his mobile phone print-out which disclosed a number of calls to known bookies/punters including Sanjiv Chawla, Rajesh Kalra Sunil Dara, Rattan Mehta, etc., Manoj Prabhakar stated that he had contacted them for the purpose of investigating match fixing allegations. He further stated that he knew Sanjiv Chawla since he visited the Gym at Hotel Park Royal and he was looking for an overseas partner for his cosmetics business and the telephone calls in his cell phone were in that connection. Rajesh Kalra is his friend and prints brochures for his cosmetic's business. He further stated that he also knew Sunil Dara who used to frequent the gym at Hotel Park Royal and, once or twice, he had asked Prabhakar about the outcome of cricket matches and he had given his opinion to Sunil Dara. He admitted that he knew Anand Saxena very well and had attended a few parties with him. Anand Saxena, on some occasions, had asked him to introduce cricket players to him but he had refused.

Manoj Prabhakar admitted that he was introduced to M.K. Gupta by Ajay Sharma sometime in 1990 and he knew him as John and not as Mukesh Gupta. He stated that he had met Mukesh Gupta 5-6 times only but used to speak to him on the telephone. He further stated that he had seen Mukesh Gupta abroad also. He confessed that he had received money once or twice for providing information about matches to MK and that

he used to receive only around Rs.25,000/- to Rs.30,000/- for each piece of information. He was paid only when his information was of use to MK. On being asked whether MK had given him money to buy a Maruti Gypsy with wide tyres after the England tour in 1990, he stated that he had purchased a Gypsy with wide tyres after the England tour but he himself had paid for it. Manoj denied introducing Dean Jones to MK. He further stated that after a festival match in Sri Lanka in early 1990s, he was in the same flight as MK. But they had booked their tickets separately and this was purely accidental. He denied that MK had ever visited his house at Ghaziabad. Manoj admitted having made a phone call to Gus Logie at MK's request, but Logie had refused to do anything for MK. He accepted that he introduced Mark Waugh to MK in Hongkong during a six-a-side tournament. He also admitted introducing Brian Lara, Salim Malik and Alec Stewart to MK. He denied that he introduced Arvinda D'Silva and Ranatunga to MK. He stated that for these introductions, he had received money only once or twice. MK used to pay him only when his introduction to foreign players resulted in a profitable relationship. He stated that MK used to pay him money through one of his servants.

Prabhakar confessed that in the Ranji Trophy Quarter Final match of 1991 between Delhi and Bombay, he had given information to MK that Delhi would lose this match since some of the Delhi players were scheduled to play league cricket in England which was clashing with further Ranji Trophy engagements. However, he has denied receiving money from MK for this information. He was very friendly with Tipu Kohli (a punter) and he used to call him up to get his opinion and information about cricket matches. Prabhakar also said that he knew one Mashaal, a bookie of Bombay.

MOHD. AZHARUDDIN

Joining the State Bank of India as a Clerk in 1983, Mohd. Azharuddin got quick promotions because of his cricket. He is at present a Scale-IV officer, working as Chief Manager and PRO, State Bank of India, Hyderabad.

Azharuddin admits his very close relationship with Ajay Sharma, and the intimacy developed since both of them used to be room-mates when ever they played. On being confronted with telephone print-outs of Ajay Sharma which disclose contacts only just before or during cricket matches, he stated that Ajay Sharma had always been his well-wisher for many years and he also used to bring him bats during matches since it brought him good luck.

Azharuddin admitted on further questioning that he was first introduced to M.K. Gupta @ MK by Ajay Sharma sometime in 1995, at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. Ajay Sharma and MK had been approaching him to underperform in some matches for a consideration. Mukesh Gupta had offered him a sum of Rs.1.25 crores, but the deal did not materialise. He accepted that he had taken money on some occasions from MK but did not underperform in most of the matches in which he had taken money. He stated that the

Titan Cup match between India and South Africa at Rajkot in 1996 was fixed through Mukesh Gupta, and revealed that Ajay Jadeja and Nayan Mongia were also involved along with him. A match in Pepsi Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in 1997 was also fixed through MK. He accepted that he had introduced Mukesh Kumar Gupta to Hansie Cronje at Kanpur in 1996.

On being asked about Ajay Gupta and Ameesh Gupta whose cell phone numbers figured frequently in his telephone print-out, he stated that he had met Ajay Gupta and his associates sometime in 1998 through Ajay Sharma. He had a letter of intent for a petrol pump issued by the Ministry of Petroleum in 1996 which was under litigation and wanted to seek Ajay Gupta's help. On being asked whether Ameesh Gupta s/o Gyan Chand Gupta paid for his shopping at Harrods in London in 1999 during the World Cup, he stated that he had made some purchases and Ameesh Gupta had paid for the same. On further questioning, he accepted that Ajay Gupta and his associates had approached him sometime to fix matches. He does not remember how much money he had received from them. The Pepsi Cup match between India and Pakistan at Jaipur in 1999 was fixed through them and Jadeja and Nayan Mongia were also involved with him in the deal. He was paid around Rs.10 lacs after that match by some unknown person on behalf of Gultas. Azhar admitted that Ameesh Gupta had given him mobile phone - 98-111-50860 - through which he used to contact him during matches.

On being asked whether he had met Dawood Ibrahim, he stated that he had seen him a few times in Sharjah where Dawood Ibrahim used to be present during cricket matches. He denied having any telephonic conversation with him. On being asked whether he had spoken to Abu Salem, he stated that Abu Salem had rung him up on a couple of occasions and requested him to fix some matches but he had refused.

On being asked about Hamid Banjo Cassim of South Africa, Azhar accepted that he had met him whenever he visited South Africa. On being asked about Pappu Bhutani, he stated that he knew him but he had not purchased any expensive watch from him. Azhar also stated that he presented a Rolex watch costing around Rs.75,000/- to Ajit Wadekar as a token of appreciation since Ajit Wadekar always used to guide him when he was the Coach of Indian team. On being asked about the alleged offer made by Kapil Dev to Manoj Prabhakar in Singer Cup, 1994, he stated that Manoj Prabhakar never informed him about this alleged offer and he came to know of this only through newspapers recently. About the India-West Indies one-day match at Kanpur in 1994 where Manoj Prabhakar and Nayan Mongia had batted slowly, he stated that there were no instructions from the dressing room that they should bat slowly and he could not comprehend the reasons behind such tactics.

DR. ALI IRANI

Dr. Ali Irani, Physiotherapist of Indian Cricket team, stated that he had been with the Indian Cricket team from 1987 to 1997, except for a gap of around 6 months in between.

According to him, it was in 1994, in the India - West Indies one-day international at Kanpur, that everybody, for the first time, felt that something was wrong. In that match, Manoj Prabhakar and Nayan Mongia did not chase the target and just played out the remaining balls. According to Dr. Irani, it looked as if they were batting to play out the balls rather than winning the match, and it was also peculiar that Ajit Wadekar who was the coach of the team and who should have been watching the match and passing necessary instructions, was sitting in the dressing-room unmindful of what was happening on the ground. Dr. Irani further stated that people were so upset that one of the selectors, G. R. Vishwanath, even came to the dressing room and shouted at Wadekar asking him whether he knew what was going on and whether he had passed on any instructions. After the match was over, when Manoj Prabhakar came to the dressing room, he said that Nayan Mongia had asked him to play out the remaining balls as that was the instruction from the dressing room. When Nayan Mongia was asked about it, he said that he had been told to say so but who had told him to say so, he could not explain. That evening, when the team was returning after dinner in a bus, Manoj Prabhakar was abusing Wadekar and Azhar probably because he knew that a decision to drop him and Nayan Mongia for the next two matches had been taken.

Dr. Irani also stated that certain undesirable characters were gaining entry into the dressing room. There was an instance of team members, specially from the South, in a Test Match against Sri Lanka in 1997 strongly objecting to the presence of Ajay Sharma, a former Indian player, in the dressing room. Dr. Irani further stated that he also saw Ajay Sharma in Chandigarh when the Indian Team was playing there. Ajay Sharma had brought some bats for Azharuddin, but, during that match, Azhar was down with fever and he could not play, so he left the place with Ajay Sharma. It was well known that Ajay Sharma was very close to Azhar.

Another instance where Dr. Irani suspected the match was deliberately lost was in the West Indies in 1997. The Indian team had to make only a few runs, but in spite of a number of wickets in hand, they could not make them and the manner in which the team played raised suspicion. After the match, some of the boys blamed the loss due to “a silly excuse” like “Voodoo” being practiced by some locals on the field.

Dr. Irani categorically stated that he was not aware of the alleged offer of Rs. 25 lakhs made by Kapil Dev to Manoj Prabhakar to underperform in Sri Lanka till the controversy appeared in the media a couple of years back. He could not say whether the allegation was correct.

Dr. Irani further stated that in the Indian Team, Nayan Mongia and Manoj Prabhakar were good friends and so were Azhar and Ajay Jadeja and Sidhu and Manoj Prabhakar. Initially, Ajay Jadeja was also very close to Manoj Prabhakar. Dr. Irani had often seen Azhar and Ajay Jadeja talking in hushed tones and very often he had doubted that their conversation related to some ‘hanky - panky’ in the matches.

Dr. Ali Irani denied knowing any person by the name M.K. Gupta. However, on being shown a photograph of M.K. Gupta, he stated that this person had been introduced to him by Azhar as 'John' and not as 'M.K. Gupta', in a test match in Ahmedabad in 1996. Later, when Azhar became closer to Dr. Irani, he opened up and asked him to collect money on his behalf. Dr. Irani told Azhar that he could not collect money on his behalf, but if someone gave money for Azhar through him in his room he would tell Azhar. Azhar then told him that 'John' would give him money and then this person 'John' and his representative (a guy from Bombay) gave him money for Azhar on a number of occasions. Azhar would ring him or tell him in advance that John would be sending money.

Dr. Irani, however, stated that he could not say how much money had been transferred by John to Azhar, but each transaction was in lakhs and some transactions were as high as Rs.10 to 15 lakhs. For rendering this service Azhar used to pay Dr. Irani anywhere from Rs.25,000/- to Rs.50,000/- on each occasion. Dr. Irani further stated that although he was a conduit for transfer of money from John to Azhar, he did on each occasion tell Azhar that what he was doing was not correct. However, his greed to be with the Indian Team as a physiotherapist got the better of him.

On being asked as to which other players were involved with Azhar, Dr. Irani stated that he thought that Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia and Manoj Prabhakar were also involved with Azhar in this matter. He further stated that he had absolutely no doubt about the involvement of Ajay Jadeja with Azhar as, in 1996, during a one day match, Ajay Jadeja told him not to talk about 'such things' as he was no longer into it. Dr. Irani suspected that he said this to him since Ajay knew by that time that Azhar had confided in him as to what was happening. Dr. Irani further stated that the bookies normally approached the players individually and that often two players would not even realise that they had been approached by the same bookie.

Dr. Irani further stated that if one studied the body language of the players after a match, then, at times, one could realise that a particular player was involved in match fixing. There have been occasions even when the Indian team had won, some players were not happy after the match. In fact, in a match against Pakistan during the 'Independence Cup', the Indian team had won, but when the camera focussed on Azhar, he did not appear happy. Noticing this, the camera focussed on him for a considerable time.

Dr. Irani further stated that, during the later stages, his relationship with Azhar had come under strain because the latter objected to his association with Sangeeta Bijlani. Dr. Irani further stated that often one could tell from the reaction of the players in the team

meeting, prior to the match, about their performance. He said this was especially true in the case of Manoj Prabhakar and N.S. Sidhu. Whenever they spoke a lot in the team meeting, he knew that they were not going to perform well in the next match.

Dr. Irani stated that he had never heard anything adverse regarding Tendulkar. In fact, in most of matches where fixing was taking place, the clue was that the game would be 'on' only when Tendulkar got 'out' because he was one player who could single-handedly win the match and upset any calculation.

On being asked about the involvement of underworld in match fixing and betting specially with reference to the involvement of Sharad Shetty, Dr. Irani stated that although he did not have any knowledge, once Azhar had told him that as he was doing matches with Anees Ibrahim, he could not do with anyone else.

AJAY JADEJA

Ajay Jadeja stated that he knew Rajesh Kalra and Kishan Kumar since they regularly come to the gym at Hotel Park Royal which is also frequented by Jadeja. He denied any knowledge about their being punters. On being asked about Rattan Mehta, who also figures prominently in his cell phone print outs, he stated that Rattan Mehta was a very good friend and had known him for the past many years. He also stated that he had gone to his restaurant many times and maintained close contacts with Rattan Mehta. When asked whether he knew that Rattan Mehta was also involved in betting and match fixing, he stated that he had no knowledge of such activities and also never bothered to find out. On being asked whether he knew that Rattan Mehta's sister Mona Mehta was arrested for betting on cricket matches during World Cup, 1999 by Delhi Police, he stated that he had not heard of such an incident. On being asked whether he knew Mukesh Kumar Gupta @ MK, he stated that he had never met him but all that he knew was that MK stayed next to Nikhil Chopra's house in Defence Colony. He also denied that he went to MK's house at Defence colony along with a girl and Ajay Sharma some time in 1996. He, however, stated that since he met so many people he cannot remember all of them. He stated that he did not remember whether he received Rs.50,000/- from MK. On being asked whether he was involved in match fixing with Mohd. Azharuddin, he denied the same.

On being asked whether he knew Uttam Chand, a bookie/punter of Chennai, he stated that he did not know him. On being confronted with Uttam Chand's Cell phone printout, which disclosed very frequent telephonic contact between both of them just before or during cricket matches, he stated that he recognised Uttam Chand's cell phone number but knew him as 'Gupta'. He did not know how Uttam Chand got his telephone number. Jadeja stated that Uttam Chand used to ring him up often and tell him that he is his fan and if he did not talk to him, he would run into bad luck and because of superstition, he used to return his call. On being asked whether he knew that Uttam Chand was a bookie,

he stated that he had an inkling to that effect due to the nature of conversation Uttam Chand used to have with him. On being asked why he did not discontinue his association with Uttam Chand after that, he stated that he could not explain this. Ajay Jadeja also denied that he provided any information to Uttam Chand about cricket matches and denied receiving any money from Uttam Chand. Finally, on being asked about his association with persons like Rajesh Kalra, Kishan Kumar, Rattan Mehta and Uttam Chand who are all bookies/punters, Jadeja stated that he did not want to discuss these things. He merely said that he had made certain mistakes in his career and was ready to pay the price for it.

NIKHIL CHOPRA

Nikhil Chopra, member of the Indian team, stated that he had absolutely no idea of match fixing or related malpractices. He also did not have any idea of any Indian players being involved in such malpractices. On being asked about Rajesh Kalra's call in his cell phone print out, he stated that he knew Rajesh Kalra since both of them used the gym at Hotel Park Royal. On being asked about the details of his conversations over telephone with Rajesh Kalra, he stated that he did not recollect the same. On being asked about a call received on his cell phone from Sanjiv Chawla's mobile, he stated that he did not know Sanjiv Chawla and did not know how his number had figured in his telephone print-out. On being asked about a call made to Rattan Mehta from his Cell phone, he stated that he did not know Rattan Mehta and did not remember whether he made such a call. He stated that he had seen Rattan Mehta just once when he was sitting in a hotel with his brother and his brother had pointed out Rattan Mehta and told him that he was the owner of Hotel Mini Mahal in Vasant Vihar.

NAYAN MONGIA

About Kapil Dev's alleged offer to Manoj Prabhakar during the Singer Cup, 1994, Nayan Mongia stated that he was occupying the room adjoining Manoj Prabhakar's room during that tour. His room-mate was Prashant Vaidhya. He never heard any shouting or commotion as a sequel to this alleged offer. He does not recollect any journalist sitting in his room when the alleged offer was made. He heard about this alleged incident for the first time when Shri I.S. Bindra made those allegations on TV. His room-mate Prashant Vaidhya also never mentioned anything to him.

Mongia stated that he had never been approached by any player, ex-player or bookie to underperform for a consideration. About his slow batting in Kanpur against West Indies in 1994, he stated that there was some discussion in the dressing room that no further wickets should be lost and he had passed on the same instructions to Manoj Prabhakar. On being asked as to who had given those instructions to him, he could not give a satisfactory answer and stated that there was some general talk in the dressing room. He

denied having ever placed bets in England during a match not involving India. He also denied that he was involved with Mohd. Azharuddin in fixing matches. He stated that he had not received any money from Azharuddin or Ajay Sharma. He further stated that he had no knowledge of any match in the Titan Cup Series, 1996 or the Pepsi Cup Series in 1999 having been fixed by Azharuddin. He denied that he had ever been offered money by a bookie to underperform.

NAVJYOT SINGH SIDHU

About the alleged offer made by Kapil Dev to Manoj Prabhakar during the Singer Cup in 1994, Navjyot Sindhu stated that he and Manoj Prabhakar were room-mates during that tour. Sometime on that tour, Manoj Prabhakar, during a casual conversation, had told him that he had been offered money by a player without disclosing the name of the player. According to Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar did not mention the time, place or the purpose of the above said offer.

Sidhu does not remember whether Kapil Dev had come to their room just before Prabhakar had told him about this offer of money. When Manoj Prabhakar informed him about it, he was absolutely sure that nobody else was present in the room. According to him, neither Prashant Vaidhya nor anybody else had come to their room when Manoj Prabhakar had told him about the alleged offer. During his further examination, N.S. Sidhu accepted that Manoj Prabhakar had told him in the first instance itself that the player who allegedly offered him money was Kapil Dev but categorically denied that the alleged offer was made in his presence.

Sidhu also denied that he was into match fixing along with Manoj Prabhakar and stated that he had never underperformed for a consideration at any time during his cricket career.

AJIT WADEKAR

Ajit Wadekar, former Indian Captain and Manager, stated that during his tenure as Manager of Indian Cricket Team, he did not come across any instance or information which hinted at match fixing, betting or involvement of Indian players in it. He further stated that although there were some instances such as Kapil Dev not running out Peter Kirsten in the 1992 “Good Will Tour” of the Indian team to South Africa in spite of his repeatedly leaving the crease before the ball was delivered and in spite of him telling Kapil to run Kirsten out a number of times after warning, Kapil did not do so. This appeared odd now but he had thought that Kapil really wanted to have good relations with South Africa.

Other such instances which he recalled were that of R. Mohan, Sports Editor of 'Hindu' who was in the dressing room with a cell phone and he had to ask him to leave the dressing room as he was causing disturbance, and Nayan Mongia playing extremely slowly in the One Day International match against West Indies at Kanpur. Ajit Wadekar further stated that three of them, i.e., himself, Captain Azhar and Chairman of the Selection Committee - Viswanath, decided to penalise both Nayan and Manoj by dropping them for the next two matches on the ground that they appeared to have played slow to improve their average. He further stated that although all these instances did appear to be odd, he could not say that they were deliberate acts on the part of the players because of consideration of match-fixing and betting.

He further stated that during his tenure as Manager of the Indian cricket team, he did feel that the players were not focussed on the game and he had, therefore, formulated a code of conduct for Indian players in the tests against England and Zimbabwe.

About the allegation of Manoj Prabhakar that in the series in Sri Lanka some senior player of the team (Kapil Dev) had offered Manoj Prabhakar 25 lakhs rupees to underperform and that he had informed him of the same, Ajit Wadekar stated that what Manoj Prabhakar had said were total lies. Had any such information been given to him at that time, it would certainly have been reflected in his tour report. He totally denied that Manoj Prabhakar had given him any information about the alleged offer of money to him by Kapil Dev to underperform.

PRASHANT VAIDYA

He played for India for the first time during the Singer Cup, 1994 in Sri Lanka. In that tour, Nayan Mongia was his room-mate and the adjoining room was occupied by Manoj Prabhakar and N.S. Sidhu. About the alleged offer made by Kapil Dev to Manoj Prabhakar during that tour, Prashant categorically stated that he did not have any knowledge of any such incident taking place during that tour. He stated that he had not gone to Manoj Prabhakar's room as a sequel to the commotion arising out of the alleged offer. He said that it may be possible that some journalist may have been sitting in his room during that tour since he was quite friendly with Mr. Sakhya Sen Mitra, a journalist from Calcutta. He also stated that Kapil Dev and other players had been visiting each other's room quite often and there was a possibility of Kapil Dev having visited his room while Mr. Sakhya Sen Mitra was also present. He came to know of Kapil Dev's name in this connection only when Mr. I.S. Bindra had given a statement to this effect in the media.

RAVI SHASTRI

Ravi Shastri, former Indian Cricketer, stated that Manoj Prabhakar first told him about the alleged offer made by Kapil Dev sometime during the Singer Cup Series in 1994. He was in Sri Lanka during that series as a Commentator and Prabhakar had approached him about 4-5 days after the alleged offer was made and told him that Kapil Dev had offered him money to underperform in the India-Pakistan match. Ravi Shastri stated that he did not believe Manoj Prabhakar. However, he instructed him to tell the Team Management about this. On being asked for his opinion whether Kapil Dev could have made such an offer, Ravi Shastri stated that he had played with Kapil Dev for a number of years during his cricketing career and did not think that Kapil Dev could have made such an offer. On being asked as to what could have motivated Prabhakar to make such an allegation, he stated that it was a well known fact in the Indian team that Manoj Prabhakar and Kapil Dev did not get along very well.

KAPIL DEV

Kapil Dev, former Indian Captain and former Coach, when asked about the land acquired by him for a Society at Village Roza Ka Gujjar, District Gurgaon, stated that this land was purchased through one Kewal Joshi since it was a very attractive proposition as the price was very low and that he had offered many cricketers/ex cricketers/officials plots so that it could be built up as a sort of Cricketers' Colony. He had met the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon quite a few times to get the land demarcated properly, but till now it could not be managed.

Kapil admitted having received a BMW Car gifted to him during South Africa tour of 1992 by one Ibrahim, owner of 'Auto City' auto-garage in South Africa. This was gifted to him after he had taken 400 wickets in the previous series at Australia. Ibrahim had offered him the car in return for his agreeing to model for his garage. Like all cricketers, he also thought that it was quite a good bargain and accepted the car and agreed to model for Ibrahim's Company. The car was brought to India after completing all necessary formalities with the Ministry of Finance. Kapil Dev also admitted that he knew Hamid Banjo Cassim of South Africa very well. He stated that Cassim was known as Hamid Mamu to Indian players and was very helpful to Indian players whenever India toured South Africa.

About the India-New Zealand Test at Ahmedabad in 1999 where India did not enforce the follow-on, he stated that this decision was taken in consultation with the Captain, Vice-Captain and other senior players. One day prior to the decision, there was absolutely no doubt in his mind that the follow-on should be enforced. At the end of play on the third day, there was no team meeting on the strategy for the next day. Somewhere during lunch time on the 4th day, the bowlers, especially Srinath, complained that they were very tired and India should bat again and score quick runs and make New Zealand bat thereafter. On being told that the bookies in Delhi allegedly knew about the decision not to enforce follow-on 31.10.99 night, Kapil stated that no decision to this effect was taken

on the 31st and hence it was very surprising. On being asked whether somebody could have subconsciously influenced this decision on the next day, he stated that it could not be ruled out. He could not remember as to who could have done it.

About Ajay Jadeja, Kapil stated that he was extremely close to him and was like a son to him. On being told that Ajay Jadeja was in touch with a number of bookies and how Kapil never realised this, he stated that he had known about Jadeja's friendship with certain dubious persons and felt that his choice of friends was not always as it should be.

On being asked, specifically, whether he knew Uttam Chand, a bookie of Madras, he stated that he did not know any person by the name Uttam Chand, and upon being told that he had once played cards with him at Hotel Adyar Park Sheraton, Madras, he stated that he used to have card sessions in the company of Bharat Reddy, the ex- Wicket-Keeper and may have played cards when generally many other people were also present in those sessions. He accepted that he was very fond of playing cards.

About his alleged offer to Manoj Prabhakar during Singer Cup, 1994, Kapil stated that he did not make any such offer. All the while when Manoj Prabhakar made those allegations, Kapil thought he was talking about Mohd. Azharuddin and only when I.S. Bindra mentioned his name in the media recently, to his utter shock, he realised that Manoj Prabhakar was talking about him. He further stated that Prabhakar never got along well with him. One of the reasons was that during the tour of England in 1987, when Chetan Sharma was injured, in spite of Manoj Prabhakar being in the 14, he had asked the then BCCI President Mr. Raj Singh Dungarpur to permit him to utilise the services of Madan Lal, who was playing league cricket in England and was not in the original Indian Team. On another occasion, when he was in the Board of Directors of Escorts company, a proposal to nominate Manoj Prabhakar and Raman Lamba was received and he had shot down that proposal. Perhaps due to these reasons Manoj Prabhakar had a grudge against him. Kapil Dev also volunteered to undergo an unconditional Lie Detector Test.

SACHIN TENDULKAR

Sachin Tendulkar, former Indian Captain, when asked about the India-New Zealand Test at Ahmedabad in 1999, stated that by the end of third day's play when New Zealand had lost around 6 wickets, he had thought to himself that he would enforce the follow-on, the next day. However, the New Zealand innings dragged on till after lunch the next day and by then, he himself, Coach Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble and Ajay Jadeja decided that follow-on would not be enforced since the bowlers, especially Srinath had insisted that they were very tired. It was a collective decision not to enforce follow-on. On being asked whether anybody could have influenced this decision since the bookies in Delhi allegedly knew one day in advance that follow-on will not be enforced, he accepted that it was possible.

About Shobhan Mehta, the Bombay bookie, he stated that he had never met this person nor did he invite him to his wedding. During his wedding there was tight security and only select persons were invited and nobody without a proper invitation could have gate crashed. All speculations about himself and Shobhan Mehta were absolutely rubbish and he had never even met this person any time in his life.

On being asked whether he suspected any Indian player of being involved in match fixing, Sachin stated that during his tenure as Captain, he had felt that Mohd. Azharuddin was not putting in 100% effort and he suspected that he was involved with some bookies. On being asked about the India-West Indies match at Kanpur in 1994 when Manoj Prabhakar and Nayan Mongia batted slowly, he stated that he was the Vice-Captain during that match and he was absolutely sure that there were no instructions from the management for Manoj Prabhakar and Nayan Mongia to bat slowly and that he was so upset with their tactics that he did not talk to them after the match.

MANINDER SINGH

Maninder Singh, former Indian Cricket Team player was asked about the Ranji Trophy Quarter final match between Delhi and Bombay in 1991 at Feroze Shah Kotla. He stated that in that particular year, the Ranji Trophy schedule was disturbed because of some Court order. Some of the Delhi players were committed to play league cricket in England. Had Delhi won that quarter final match, further Ranji Trophy matches would have clashed with league engagements in England. He stated that although there was no conscious decision to lose that match, the team was not serious about winning it either.

KIRTI AZAD

He stated that he was a member of the Delhi Ranji Trophy team which played the quarter final match against Bombay in 1991. He confirmed that some of the Delhi players were committed to playing League Cricket in England that season. He stated that he was not contracted to play League Cricket in the year 1991. Kirti Azad denied that there was any conscious decision on the part of Delhi Team as a whole to lose the match against Bombay. However, he accepted that some members of the team may have taken such a decision. He denied that he was a party to any such decision to throw away the match.

ATUL WASSAN

He stated that he was member of the Delhi Ranji Trophy team which played the quarter final match against Bombay in 1991. He also stated that he was contracted to play league cricket in England during that season. Atul Wassan further stated that the Ranji Trophy schedule in 1991 was delayed and would have clashed with league engagements of some of the players including himself in England. He stated that the players had asked DDCA

to relieve them from Ranji Trophy engagements so that they could play league cricket in England but this plea was rejected. He further said that there was no conscious decision on the part of Delhi players to lose the match, but they were not very serious about winning the match.

I.S. BINDRA

Shri I.S. Bindra, former President of BCCI talked about a number of incidents which created suspicion that match fixing and betting existed in cricket. He referred to an incident of 1979 in which G.R. Vishwanath, Captain of the Indian team, went out to toss with Asif Iqbal, Captain of Pakistan and Vishwanath lost the toss, but to his utter surprise found Asif Iqbal insisting that Vishwanath had won the toss. There was a possibility that there might have been bets placed on the toss in this match. He also stated about another incident reported by Mr. L.P. Sahi in 'Telegraph' Newspaper, Calcutta, that Ajay Jadeja had brought a bookie to meet Azharuddin in the Dressing Room in 1994-95 at Sharjah and when reporters came to know of this, they tried to photograph the bookie with the players and their efforts were blocked by Jadeja and Azharuddin and the bookie was sent out in a hurry. He also alleged that Mr. P.M. Rungta and Dr. Ravinder Chaddha were the two persons whom he suspected of betting during Cricket matches.

As regards Manoj Prabhakar's allegations about Kapil Dev having offered him money during the Singer Cup 1994, Shri Bindra stated that Manoj Prabhakar met him for the first time on 22.4.2000 at Mohali, Chandigarh in the presence of Mr. Pandove, Secretary, PCA, and told him about the incident. Manoj Prabhakar also allegedly told Mr. Bindra that Navjyot Singh Sidhu was also present when this offer was made and Shri Bindra allegedly later on confirmed the same from N.S. Sidhu. He also stated that on one occasion Dr. Ali Irani had told him that Manoj Prabhakar, N..S. Sidhu and Nayan Mongia had placed bets on a cricket match not involving India at England. He further revealed that Azharuddin was presented a Mercedes Car in Sharjah by a person claiming to be his admirer. He stated that Mr. Jyoti Bajpai, the Administrative Manager of the Indian Team at that time had informed that the person who presented the Mercedes was a Pakistani supporter and it was difficult to understand why a Pakistani supporter should present a car to Azharuddin.

Shri I.S. Bindra also referred to the match in Sharjah which was played under failing light between India and Pakistan. He stated that there is a possibility that this match was continued because of some foul play, especially since matches in Sharjah were played for money and he referred to such matches as 'Masala and Thaila' matches.

He also narrated an incident in which India-New Zealand played a match in Sharjah on 20.4.98. The Secretary of Pakistan Cricket Board mentioned to him that he had overheard a conversation between Asif Iqbal and Marc Mascarhenas that the Indian team will be out

for less than 185 runs and the top four Indian players will throw their wickets. This fact was also allegedly mentioned by the then President of Pakistan Cricket Board to Mr. Salve separately.

According to Bindra, the way Mr. Ali Bacher conducts matches in South Africa, creates a lot of suspicion. He has also talked about the World Cup 1999 match between India and Zimbabwe and said that Sunil Gavaskar, immediately after the match, had alleged on TV that someone from the Dressing Room had sent a message to the players to finish the match quickly even though many deliveries were left to get the required runs. Mr. Bindra further stated that when Sunil Gavaskar was ridiculed by Raj Singh Dungarpur for making such irresponsible statements, Sunil Gavaskar came out in the Press stating that it was Mr. Brijesh Patel, who was part of the team management who had told him so. He also stated that the role of bookies after 1996 had decreased in match fixing and now it is suspected that match fixing is done by 'Event Managers' who were signing up various players. The Event Managers are signing players for huge amounts and if for any reason, they are not able to recover their investment, they fix matches and performance to recover their money.

SUNIL DEV

Sunil Dev, former Vice President, BCCI and Manager of Indian Team, stated that he suspected Ajay Sharma due to his proximity with Azharuddin. Ajay Sharma was seen at many places with Azharuddin during matches and was also available to Azharuddin on telephone. He revealed that some bookies had reportedly snatched Ajay Sharma's Opel Astra Car and his Cell phone, sometime after the India-South Africa series. Similarly, he also suspected one Karun Dubey, a former Ranji Trophy player, due to his proximity with Kapil Dev. He further stated that Karun Dubey visited Australia and was with Kapil Dev during the last series in Australia. He also stated that Kapil Dev owned a lot of property, including a flat in London, a house in Sunder Nagar, some residential property in Maharani Bagh, Safdarjung Enclave and some property in Chandigarh. It was difficult to believe that all this property can be owned purely through income as a Cricketer. He also stated that Ajay Jadeja also had lot of property in Delhi and Bombay which needed to be probed.

Sunil Dev also stated that when India plays in some non-regular venues like Singapore, Nairobi, Toronto and Dubai, there are some middlemen who take some money to arrange these matches in connivance with BCCI office-bearers.

MADHAV RAO SCINDIA

Shri Madhav Rao Scindia, former President, BCCI, stated that he was present at Sharjah during the India-Pakistan match which was played in failing light. Ashok Mankad was the Manager of the team at that time and Mohd. Azharuddin was Captain. He was present

there in his capacity as President of BCCI. On being asked why the match was allowed to continue in darkness, he stated that, as a matter of principle, Office-bearers of BCCI do not interfere with decision making on the field. Such decisions are taken by the Coach, Captain and Team Management. On being asked about DRI tapes allegedly sent to him by Mr. Sivaraman, the then Revenue Secretary, sometime in 1995, he stated that Mr. Sivaraman had not handed over any tapes to him nor was any transcript or gist of information purportedly contained in those tapes given to him. He stated that he was not the BCCI President during that period and there is no reason why Mr. Sivaraman should have provided him the alleged tapes.

(b)SECTION-III(ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE):

In this section, the evidence (oral and documentary) against individual players/ others is discussed in detail.

AJAY SHARMA :

It has been clearly established that Ajay Sharma had nexus with bookies/punters M.K. Gupta and Ajay Gupta and his associates. He had introduced players to them, provided 'information' about matches and had also manipulated the pitch at least on one occasion to suit the betting syndicate. There is also evidence of him having received money from M.K. and Ajay Gupta for rendering this service.

According to Mukesh Kumar Gupta @ MK @ John, the first cricketer he had approached was Ajay Sharma. He first met Ajay Sharma sometime in 1988 during the Ramcharan Agarwal Tournament in Delhi and presented him Rs. 2,000/- as a token of his appreciation for one particular knock and also gave him his telephone number requesting Ajay Sharma to contact him in case of any 'problem'. MK is partially corroborated by Ajay Sharma himself who has stated that although he did not know the person who had stuffed money in his pocket during that tournament, his friend Sanjay Bharadwaj had later told him that it was MK, a cricket bookie.

MK has further stated that, during the India tour of New Zealand in 1990, Ajay Sharma used to telephonically provide him information about the weather, pitch, team composition, etc. Ajay Sharma, in his statement, has said that it was not he, but Manoj Prabhakar who was his room-mate on that tour, who used to provide this information. This appears unlikely since Manoj Prabhakar had not been personally introduced to MK during that tour and he had only a 'telephonic introduction' through Ajay Sharma. In this respect, MK's statement seems more plausible. The fact that Manoj Prabhakar was introduced to MK by Ajay Sharma is accepted by all three of them and the "personal introduction" took place sometime after the New Zealand tour but before the Indian team's tour of England in 1990.

MK has further stated that the Delhi-Bombay Ranji Trophy quarterfinal match played in Delhi in 1991 was intentionally lost by Delhi since some Delhi players were committed to playing league cricket in England, which was clashing with further Ranji Trophy

matches. Ajay Sharma was a member of that team and he has corroborated MK's statement. MK added that sometime in 1995, Ajay Sharma renewed his contacts with him and asked for Rs. 15,000/- to pay for a Zen car on which there was a 'black' of Rs. 15,000/-. Ajay Sharma accepted this in his statement although he quoted the year as 1993-94.

In his statement, MK has said that Ajay Sharma introduced Azharuddin to him sometime in 1995 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. Both Ajay Sharma and Azharuddin corroborate this. According to MK, he paid a sum of Rs.5 lacs to Ajay Sharma for this introduction and this has been accepted by Ajay Sharma. MK has also said that Ajay Sharma accompanied him to Hyderabad to meet and settle issues with Azharuddin after the Titan Cup series 1996, when matches did not work out as planned between Azharuddin and MK. Ajay Sharma has also accepted this in his statement. All these facts clearly disclose that Ajay Sharma was acting as a conduit between M.K. and players, for which he received money from M.K.

MK has further stated that in 1996, during the India-Australia Test at Ferozeshah Kotla, Delhi, he got a result-oriented pitch prepared in connivance with Ajay Sharma and Ram Adhar @ Chaudhary, a groundsman of Ferozeshah Kotla. Both Ajay Sharma and Chaudhary have accepted this fact. Ajay Sharma concedes that he received Rs. 3 lacs from MK for this arrangement and he paid Chaudhary Rs. 50,000/-. Chaudhary has corroborated this and has accepted that he received Rs. 50,000/- from Ajay Sharma. This Test incidentally ended in around 3 ½ days time with India emerging as winners. According to MK, sometime in 1996, Ajay Sharma had brought Ajay Jadeja to his Defence Colony residence for an introduction. This fact has been accepted by Ajay Sharma, who has also stated that Jadeja paid him Rs. 18,000/- out of Rs. 50,000/- which MK had paid Jadeja after the introduction. Ajay Sharma's association with MK seems to have ended sometime in 1996-97 and his association with Ajay Gupta and associates started thereafter.

Ajay Gupta, his cousin Nishit Goel, Gyan Gupta and his son Ameesh Gupta are big-time punters of Delhi who operate in unison as a group. They seem to have got into match fixing sometime in 1998. Among the aforesaid four persons, only Ajay Gupta and Nishit Goel could be examined. Gyan Gupta did not cooperate during the enquiry and his son Ameesh Gupta did not appear before CBI in spite of being summoned.

Ajay Gupta completely denied that he was into match fixing or that he was a punter. Nishit Goel denied that he was into match fixing, but he accepted that he placed bets on cricket matches. However, a number of bookies have stated that all the Guptas are big time punters. Specifically, the statements of bookies - Jai Bhagwan Gupta, Sanjeev Sacher @ Babloo and Naveen Sachdeva @ Tinkoo and Deepak Rajouri speak to this. This is further corroborated by the cell-phone printouts of Guptas which show a number of calls to Tinkoo, Babloo, Jai and another Delhi bookie, Surender Mandi during cricket matches.

Ajay Sharma has stated that he introduced Azharuddin to Ajay Gupta and others sometime in 1998 at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi. This is corroborated by the statement of Sanjay Anand, a member of Roshnara Club, who is a mutual friend of both Ajay Sharma and the Guptas. Ajay Sharma adds that both himself and Sanjay Anand received Rs. 5 lacs each from the Guptas for this introduction. Sanjay Anand, however, denies receiving money from the Guptas. This is partially negated by the statement of Nishit Goel who has stated that he was present at the meeting that Ajay Gupta had with Ajay Sharma, Sanjay Anand and others wherein it was decided that both Ajay Sharma and Sanjay Anand would be paid Rs.5 lacs each for introducing Azharuddin, and that, after a few months, Sanjay Anand had confirmed having received the amount to Nishit Goel.

The nexus between Ajay Sharma and Ajay Gupta is further corroborated by documentary evidence in the form of an affidavit filed by Ajay Gupta with the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) where Ajay Sharma is employed, in which he has offered to bear the expenditure of Ajay Sharma's visit to England during the World Cup-1999. Ajay Sharma, in his statement, has accepted that Ajay Gupta had financed his and his family's visit to England in 1999 during the World Cup. Ajay Sharma has also admitted that his cell phone 98111-95929 which was stolen at Gurgaon in January, 2000 was provided to him by Ajay Gupta. Ajay Sharma has also accepted in his statement that his recent calls to Azharuddin was to wish him "All the Best" and to find out whether he had spoken to the "Guptas". All these facts clearly establish Ajay Sharma's nexus with the Guptas and his role as a middleman.

There is further documentary proof of Ajay Sharma's nexus with the Guptas in the form of numerous telephone calls between them as reflected in the cell phone printouts. Ajay Sharma has made a number of calls to Ajay Gupta and Ameesh Gupta, especially just before or during cricket matches. For example, Ajay Sharma made 2 calls to Ajay Gupta on 14.3.2000. This was just one day prior to the 3rd One Day International between India-South Africa at Faridabad. Similarly, he had made 2 calls to Ajay Gupta on 22.3.2000, when India was playing a One Day match against South Africa at Sharjah.

The evidence against Ajay Sharma has to be looked into in the context of his cricket career. He has only played one Test and 33 One day Internationals. Due to the limited number of matches he has played, no evidence of his role in fixing matches in which he had played has come up. However, the facts disclosed during the inquiry, clearly establish that Ajay Sharma acted as a conduit between the players and the betting syndicates in fixing matches.

MANOJ PRABHAKAR :

The CBI enquiry has disclosed that Manoj Prabhakar, during his playing career and after retirement, had linkages with a number of bookies/punters. There is also evidence of his having underperformed and passed on information and introduced other players to the betting syndicate. There is also evidence of Prabhakar receiving money from them for rendering such services. Prabhakar has also placed bets on cricket matches.

According to Mukesh Kumar Gupta, he was introduced to Manoj Prabhakar in 1990 by Ajay Sharma, a fact endorsed by both Ajay Sharma and Manoj Prabhakar. Mukesh Kumar Gupta has further stated that he paid a sum of Rs. 40,000/- to Prabhakar before India's tour to England in 1990. He promised to pay him money equivalent to the cost of a Maruti Gypsy, with wide tyres, after the England tour, if Prabhakar provided information about weather, pitch, team composition, etc. during the tour. Mukesh Kumar Gupta has also stated that Prabhakar underperformed at his behest in one of the Tests in England, which ended in a draw. Mukesh Kumar Gupta has further stated that he kept his promise and financed Prabhakar's Gypsy, with wide tyres, after the England tour. Prabhakar has admitted to purchasing a Gypsy after the England Tour, but denied that it was financed by Mukesh Kumar Gupta. However, MK's statement in this respect appears to be more credible in view of the specific reference to Gypsy with 'wide tyres' and also the fact that Prabhakar purchased this Gypsy after the England Tour.

Mukesh Kumar Gupta further stated that Prabhakar had 'sold' him the information about the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal match in 1991 between Delhi-Bombay. Prabhakar in his statement has accepted that he had provided the information that Delhi would lose the match but denied having received any money from Mukesh Kumar Gupta. It is, however, difficult to believe that Prabhakar provided this 'information' without expecting any returns. Mukesh Kumar Gupta has further stated that during the one day series in Australia just prior to the World Cup, 1992, Prabhakar had provided specific 'information' about two one dayers against Australia in which Mukesh Kumar Gupta made good money on the basis of Prabhakar's 'information'.

Mukesh Kumar Gupta has further talked about the England tour of India in 1993. He claims that in two one- day matches in that series at Gwalior, Prabhakar had provided 'information' which turned out incorrect. However, in the one dayer at Bangalore, his 'information' proved correct.

As regards the word 'information' used by MK, it is difficult to believe that in an age when television has brought cricket to our drawing rooms and expert commentators thoroughly analyse various aspects of a match like pitch, team strengths, probable result, etc., such information provided by a player is of any use to a Bookie. So, in this respect, it has to be construed that the word 'information' is a euphemism for underperforming or 'fixing'.

Mukesh Kumar Gupta has referred to a number of instances when Prabhakar had introduced him to foreign players on payment of money. Prabhakar has stated that he used to receive money only when such introduction proved profitable to Mukesh Kumar Gupta. Mukesh Kumar Gupta has stated that the following players were introduced to him by Prabhakar.

Arvinda D'silva : Mukesh Kumar Gupta has stated that Prabhakar had introduced Arvinda D'silva to him but Prabhakar in his statement has denied it.

Salim Malik : Prabhakar introduced Malik during a match between Wills Cup winners of Pakistan and Wills Cup winners of India. This match took place in 1991 at Delhi. Prabhakar has accepted that he introduced Salim Malik to Mukesh Kumar Gupta.

Dean Jones : Dean Jones was introduced by Prabhakar during a festival match at Sri Lanka and Prabhakar was paid a sum of Rs. 2 lacs. Mukesh Kumar Gupta has further stated that he and Prabhakar had come back to India in the same flight from Colombo after that tournament. Prabhakar has denied that he introduced Dean Jones, but accepted that he and Mukesh Kumar Gupta had come back to India by the same flight on one occasion from Sri Lanka.

Brian Lara : Prabhakar introduced him to MK and Prabhakar has accepted it.

Arjuna Ranatunga : Mukesh Kumar Gupta has stated that he was introduced by Prabhakar. Latter has denied it.

Alec Stewart : Prabhakar introduced him. Accepted by Prabhakar.

Mark Waugh : MK was introduced to Mark Waugh by Prabhakar during a six-a-side tournament in Hong Kong. Prabhakar has accepted this in his statement.

Gus Logie : Prabhakar had rung up Gus Logie from his (Prabhakar's) residence at Ghaziabad for an introduction to Mukesh Kumar Gupta but Logie refused to talk to him. Prabhakar has accepted this in his statement.

Apart from Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Prabhakar was also involved with punter Tipu Kohli. Tipu Kohli has stated that he used to get 'information' from Prabhakar about cricket matches, especially during the England tour of India in 1993 and also paid him a sum of Rs. 1 lac on one occasion. Prabhakar has admitted that he was very friendly with Tipu Kohli and used to provide him 'information'.

Prabhakar was also very close to another bookie Anand Saxena. Prabhakar, in his statement, has said that Anand Saxena often requested him to introduce cricket players, which he claims he had refused.

Even recent Cell phone printouts of Manoj Prabhakar show a number of calls to bookies/punters like Sanjeev Chawla, Rajesh Kalra, Sunil Dara and Rattan Mehta. Prabhakar, in his statement, has said that he is in touch with these persons for the purpose of 'investigation' into match fixing. However, significantly, none of them have figured in the "Tehelka Tapes". Moreover, Rajesh Kalra has stated that Prabhakar has placed bets on cricket matches through him and Prabhakar himself has stated that he had given his 'opinion' about certain matches on occasions to Sunil Dara. Prabhakar has also accepted that he is close to a Bombay bookie named Mashaal.

The evidence against Prabhakar discloses that, during his playing career and even after retirement, he has been very close to a number of bookies/punters. He had received money in exchange for 'information' about cricket matches from MK and Tipu Kohli. According to MK, Prabhakar had also underperformed in some matches at his behest. Further, Prabhakar had received money from MK to introduce foreign players to him. Prabhakar has denied having introduced Arvinda D'Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga and Dean Jones to MK. There are no reasons to disbelieve MK in this regard, as Prabhakar has accepted introducing/ contacting five other foreign players for MK.

The evidence against Prabhakar discloses his nexus with a wide array of bookies/punters, which has contributed significantly to corrupting cricket in India and abroad.

MOHD. AZHARUDDIN :

It is clear that Azharuddin contributed substantially towards the expanding bookie/player nexus in Indian Cricket. The enquiry has disclosed that he received large sums of money from the betting syndicates to 'fix' matches. There is also evidence which discloses that he roped in other players also to fix matches, which resulted in this malaise making further inroads into Indian cricket. The evidence against Azharuddin, which is discussed next, clearly establishes the fact that he took money from bookies/punters to fix cricket matches and also the fact that the 'underworld' had approached him to fix matches for them.

Mukesh Kumar Gupta has stated that he met Azharuddin sometime in 1995 through Ajay Sharma at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. He paid a sum of Rs. 50 lacs as 'advance' with an arrangement that this amount would be adjusted against the matches Azharuddin would 'do' for MK. Ajay Sharma, in his statement, has corroborated that he introduced Azharuddin to Mukesh Kumar Gupta since Azharuddin wanted somebody to finance some 'fashion show' and 'charity matches'. However, Ajay Sharma has further stated that Azharuddin had told him that MK wanted him (Azharuddin) to 'do' some matches for him and Ajay Sharma had told Azharuddin that he could consider the proposal. Ajay Sharma adds that Azharuddin had telephonically confirmed to him that he had received money from MK. Azharuddin, in his statement, has admitted meeting MK through Ajay Sharma. He has further stated that MK had offered Rs. 1.25 crores but the deal did not materialise. However, the statement of MK corroborated by Ajay Sharma clearly indicates that Azharuddin was paid at least Rs.50 lakhs initially by MK to 'fix' matches.

MK has further stated that Azharuddin had specifically agreed to 'do' some matches during the Titan Cup series in 1996. But the Titan Cup Final did not turn out as arranged with Azharuddin. According to MK, after the Titan Cup Final, he, along with Ajay Sharma, went to Hyderabad and met Azharuddin to ask him to make up for the 'losses' suffered by him during the Titan Cup. Ajay Sharma has corroborated this visit to Hyderabad and also the fact that, at this meeting, Azharuddin had agreed to make up the losses suffered by MK, in future matches. MK adds that Azharuddin then gave him 'information' about two Tests at Ahmedabad and Calcutta in the 1996 series against South Africa which helped him, partially recover his losses.

Azharuddin, in his statement, has accepted receiving money from MK to fix some matches, but has stated that he 'did' only two matches for him - Titan Cup match in 1996 at Rajkot and 'some' match in Pepsi Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, 1997. This 'admission' of Azhar that he 'did' only two matches for MK during this period appears a dilution of the actual facts in the context of the amount of money he had received from MK.

MK has stated that he was introduced to Dr. Ali Irani by Azharuddin during the Ahmedabad Test against South Africa in 1996. Dr. Ali Irani has corroborated this, but stated that MK was introduced to him as 'John'. MK is categorical that some payments to Azharuddin were made through Dr. Irani. This fact has been accepted by Dr. Ali Irani, who has also stated that he used to receive a commission of Rs.25,000/- to 50,000/- from Azharuddin for receiving such payments which were running into lakhs, on each occasion. The payment of money through Dr. Irani has been further corroborated by the statement of Anil Steel, the Bombay Bookie and an associate of MK, who has stated that, on two occasions, he made payments of around Rs.20-25 lakhs each to Dr. Irani at Nanawati Hospital, on behalf of MK.

MK has further stated that Azharuddin had introduced Hansie Cronje to him during the third Test between India and South Africa at Kanpur, 1996. Azharuddin has admitted this fact. Further, there is also documentary proof in the form of hotel records which show that MK had stayed at Hotel Landmark, Kanpur, where both the teams were staying during the Test. MK has further stated that in the Sahara Cup, 1997, at Toronto, Sangeeta Bijlani used to provide him 'information' through cell phone which, however, generally proved to be incorrect.

Ajay Sharma has said that he introduced Azharuddin to Ajay Gupta and associates sometime in 1998 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. This fact is further corroborated by the statement of Sanjay Anand. Azharuddin has accepted that he met Ajay Gupta to seek his help in getting a petrol outlet allotted at Bangalore, but later on admitted that Ajay Gupta had approached him to 'fix' some matches. Ajay Sharma has stated that, on one occasion, he had collected Rs. 15 lacs from Ajay Gupta on Azharuddin's behalf and deposited the money in the locker of Azharuddin at Hotel Taj Palace through the then Food and Beverages Manager, Anil Saxena. This fact has been further corroborated by Anil Saxena, the then Food and Beverages Manager at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi, who used to handle Azharuddin's locker in his absence.

Nishit Goel, cousin of Ajay Gupta, has stated that he had 'heard' that Azharuddin was paid around Rs. 25 lacs by the Guptas initially. Azharuddin, however, does not remember how much money was paid by the Guptas to him to 'fix' matches. The evidence regarding Azharuddin possessing a locker at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi is further strengthened by the statement of MK who has stated that he had 'recovered' Rs. 30 lacs from that locker through Anil Saxena and Ajay Sharma, when matches did not turn out as arranged with Azharuddin after the Sahara Cup in 1997.

The nexus between Azharuddin and Ajay Gupta is further corroborated through their cell phone print outs which disclose frequent calls between Azharuddin and Ajay Gupta/Ameesh Gupta especially during matches. For example, Azharuddin made a call on 6.3.2000 to Ajay Gupta. This was the last day of India-South Africa Test Match at Bangalore. Similarly, Azharuddin made a call on 19.3.2000 to Ajay Gupta. This was on the day of India-South Africa One Day International at Nagpur (he was not in the team). Azharuddin has in his statement accepted that he was provided a cell phone- 9811150860 by the Guptas. Further, Azharuddin has also accepted that Ameesh Gupta paid for his shopping at "Harrods" London in 1999 during the World Cup. There is more documentary evidence in the form of hotel bills paid by Nishit Goel for Azharuddin's stay at Hotel Taj Palace on two occasions - on 2.2.2000 and 8.2.2000. The total amount of money paid by Nishit Goel to Hotel Taj on the aforesaid occasions is around Rs. 37,000/-

Finally, Azharuddin in his statement, has specifically recalled that he 'did' the match between India and Pakistan at Jaipur for the Guptas during the Pepsi Cup match, 1999, after which he received around Rs. 10 lacs from an 'unknown' person, on behalf of Guptas. However, in view of the large amount of money Azhar has received from Guptas and the 'hospitality' he has enjoyed through them, it is very difficult to believe that he 'did' only one match for them.

Azharuddin has also stated during his examination that Abu Salem had rung him up on a couple of occasions to fix matches but he had refused. Ali Irani, in his statement, has said that Azharuddin had told him once that "he was 'doing' matches for Anees Ibrahim and hence, he cannot do with anyone else".

AJAY JADEJA:

Ajay Jadeja has close relations with a number of bookies/punters, including Rajesh Kalra, Rattan Mehta, Uttam Chand, Krishan Kumar (implicated in the Hansie Cronje case) and Ajay Gupta. He has also given "judgement" and "information" regarding cricket matches to Uttam Chand and Rattan Mehta. It has emerged in the enquiry that Ajay Jadeja met M.K. Gupta in 1996 and offered to 'do' matches for him. As he could not promise the help of other players except one, the deal did not materialise. Both M.K. Gupta and Uttam Chand have stated that they paid money to Ajay Jadeja.

At the insistence of M.K. Gupta, Ajay Sharma introduced Ajay Jadeja to M.K. Gupta in 1996. M.K. Gupta has stated that Ajay Jadeja came to his house along with Ajay Sharma

and a girl and offered to “do” matches for him. However, no deal could be struck as Ajay Jadeja was only offering his services along with those of Nayan Mongia. M.K. Gupta has further stated that he paid a sum of Rs. 50,000/- to Jadeja during this meeting. Ajay Sharma has corroborated the statement of M.K. Gupta and has further stated that of the Rs. 50,000/- paid by M.K. Gupta, Jadeja kept Rs. 32,000/- himself to purchase a cell phone and gave the remaining Rs. 18,000/- to him. On the other hand, Ajay Jadeja has stated that he does not remember meeting M.K. Gupta, since he had met so many people in his life. He has also denied having received Rs. 50,000/- from M.K. Gupta. Anil Steel, a bookie from Bombay has also stated that he once saw Ajay Jadeja in the hotel room of M.K. Gupta in Calcutta during the inaugural ceremony of the World Cup Cricket, 1996, which corroborates the links between Jadeja and M.K.

During the enquiry, a print-out of the cell phone number 98100 34882 of Ajay Jadeja for the period from 15.9.99 to 30.4.2000 was taken and studied. A scrutiny of the print-out has disclosed that Ajay Jadeja had made and received telephone calls in varying numbers from and to Rajesh Kalra, a punter, Rattan Mehta, a big time punter, Uttam Chand, a bookie/punter, Ajay Gupta, a punter and Krishan Kumar (implicated in the Hansie Cronje case). When questioned about these contacts, Ajay Jadeja stated that he knew Kalra as they visited the same Gym at Hotel Park Royal. Jadeja, however, denied that he ever discussed cricket with Rajesh Kalra or passed on any information about cricket matches to him.

Ajay Jadeja accepts that he knows Krishan Kumar, but he did not have any knowledge that he was a punter. He admits that he is very close to Rattan Mehta but denies that he knew Rattan Mehta was a big-time punter. Ajay Jadeja has specifically denied that he fixed matches for Rattan Mehta. Rattan Mehta in his examination supported the statement of Ajay Jadeja about being close to him and admitted taking Ajay Jadeja’s ‘judgement’ on certain matches. It is, however, difficult to accept Jadeja’s statement that he did not know that Rattan Mehta was a big time punter, given his accepted closeness to Rattan Mehta. Jadeja’s statement is further suspect in the light of the statement of Pawan Puri, a punter of Delhi, who has stated that he had travelled with Ajay Jadeja on a flight from Mumbai to Delhi during which they discussed cricket matches and Jadeja had at that time told him that he had “done” matches for Rattan Mehta during the India, ‘India - A’ and ‘India - B’, Challenger Trophy in February, 2000. (Ajay Jadeja was the Captain of India - B Team which lost both its matches.)

Md. Azharuddin, during his examination, stated that in the Titan Cup Series in 1996, he had ‘made’ matches for M.K. Gupta and that Ajay Jadeja and Nayan Mongia were also involved with him. In his statement, Dr. Ali Irani has also stated that he had absolutely no doubt about the involvement of Ajay Jadeja with Azharuddin, and that in 1996, during a one-day match, Ajay Jadeja had also told him not to talk about “such things” to him as he was no longer into it. Dr. Ali Irani has further stated that he suspected that Ajay Jadeja

made this statement to him, because by that time ,Jadeja probably knew that Azharuddin had confided to him (Dr. Ali Irani) about match-fixing.

Another major bookie/punter Uttam Chand, during his examination, has stated that he used to get “information” regarding various aspects of the match from Jadeja in matches in which India was playing. On the basis of information provided by Jadeja, he used to further place bets. Uttam Chand has also disclosed that he paid a sum of Rs. 1 lakh initially at the time when he was introduced to Ajay Jadeja at a function in Hotel Chola Sheraton in Chennai, and later he paid a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs through ‘Hawala’ transfer when Ajay Jadeja was in Mumbai during a match. Ajay Jadeja has denied that he received any money from Uttam Chand. He has also stated that initially he only thought that Uttam Chand was his ‘fan’ and used to talk to him in order to avoid the nuisance of continuous calls from him. Jadeja has further stated that, after some time, he did get an inkling that Uttam Chand was a bookie. On being asked as to why he continued talking to Uttam Chand even after coming to know that he was a bookie, Jadeja could not provide a satisfactory answer.

The assertion of Jadeja that often he would talk to Uttam Chand only to get rid of the nuisance of continuous telephone calls is difficult to accept, as Jadeja could very easily have firmly told Uttam Chand not to ring him up. He could also have declined to take any calls from Uttam Chand. On the contrary, he not only accepted calls from Uttam Chand and talked to him for minutes, but also, on occasions, returned the call of Uttam Chand. The timings of the call between Uttam Chand and Jadeja also suggest great familiarity between the two as there have been a number of calls around midnight. It seems peculiar as to why Jadeja should be talking to a bookie/punter around midnight, specially when he is scheduled to play a match the next morning. It is also of interest that Uttam Chand and Jadeja have spoken to each other, only a day prior to a match or on the day of the match. There have been no calls between them during a gap between two series or even during a gap in matches during a particular series. The connection between Uttam Chand and Jadeja is, therefore, not innocent. The connection between the two becomes further suspect as telephone calls in the print-out of Uttam Chand’s Cell Phone No. 98400 37700 show that on occasions after talking to Jadeja he has spoken to well-known bookies such as Shobhan Mehta of Mumbai and Hans Kumar Jain of Delhi etc.

A random sample of Cell phone calls between Jadeja and Uttam Chand are reproduced below as an illustration . Many of the calls made by Uttam Chand to Jadeja are of short duration and these are probably messages left in the voice mail:-

1. 10.10.1999 - 2 calls from Uttam Chand to Jadeja. They were made on the first day of 1st Test Match between India and New Zealand at Mohali.
2. 11.10.1999 - 8 calls from Uttam Chand to Jadeja. These were made on the 2nd day of the Mohali Test Match.

3. 12.10.1999 - 23 calls from Uttam Chand on the third day of the Test Match.
4. 13.10.1999 - 46 calls from Uttam Chand on the fourth day of the Test Match.
5. 14.10.1999 - 1 call from Uttam Chand on the last day of Mohali Test Match.
6. 28.10.1999 - 24 calls from Uttam Chand. This was one day prior to the Third Test Match between India - New Zealand at Ahmedabad.
7. 29.10.1999 - 13 calls from Uttam Chand. This was the first day of the 3rd Test Match.
8. 30.10.1999 - 62 calls from Uttam Chand on the 2nd day of the Test Match.
9. 31.10.1999 - 30 calls from Uttam Chand. This was the third day of the Test Match.
10. 01.11.1999 - 50 calls from Uttam Chand on the 4th day of the Test Match.
11. 02.11.1999 - 14 calls from Uttam Chand on the last day of the Test Match.
12. 13.11.1999 - 48 calls from Uttam Chand to Jadeja and 1 call from Jadeja to Uttam Chand. This was one day prior to the India-New Zealand one-dayer at Guwahati.
13. 14.11.1999 - 5 calls from Uttam Chand on the day of Guwahati one-dayer.
14. 16.11.1999 - 55 calls from Uttam Chand to Jadeja and 1 from Jadeja to Uttam Chand one day prior to the 5th one dayer between India and New Zealand at Delhi.
15. 11.3.2000 - Uttam Chand has made 28 calls. This was one day prior to the one-dayer between India-South Africa at Jamshedpur.
16. 12.3.2000 - Uttam Chand has made 3 calls on the day of the Jamshedpur one-dayer.

The evidence against Ajay Jadeja clearly establishes that he has been close to a number of bookies/punters and has provided them “information” about cricket matches on payment of money. However, it has to be surmised that no bookie/punter will pay money for ‘information’, which is very easily available on television and the word is used as a subterfuge for underperforming and match-fixing.

Ajay Jadeja was extremely intransigent during his examination, and, even when confronted with evidence, issued bland denials.

NAYAN MONGIA :

His name has figured in match fixing and related malpractices in the statements of Azharuddin, Dr. Ali Irani, Ajay Sharma and others. In fact, Azharuddin has stated that he used to rope in Mongia also whenever he ‘did’ matches. However, in spite of strong suspicion against Nayan Mongia, due to lack of corroboration on material particulars, the evidence against him is not all that strong. The evidence against Mongia is discussed in detail below.

Azharuddin has said that the other Indian players involved with him are Nayan Mongia and Ajay Jadeja. He has, however, not disclosed specific amounts of money paid to Mongia and Jadeja. Azharuddin has, however, specified two matches in which Nayan Mongia was involved with him - the Titan Cup match at Rajkot and India-Pakistan one-dayer at Jaipur in 1999. Dr. Ali Irani has stated that one of the players involved with Azhar was Mongia. Ajay Sharma has also stated that Nayan Mongia used to operate through Azhar. MK, in his statement, has said that when Ajay Jadeja met him sometime in 1996 at his residence, he could ‘promise’ only Mongia and hence, the deal did not come through. Sh. IS Bindra has stated that once Ali Irani had told him that Mongia was one of the players who had placed bets in England on a match not involving India.

Nayan Mongia, in his statement, has denied that he has intentionally underperformed in any match. He has also stated that he does not know any Bookie. His telephone analysis does not disclose any contacts with known bookies. However, Mongia has not been able to explain his slow batting at Kanpur in the 1994 one-dayer against West Indies. Prabhakar has stated that when Mongia came to the crease, he told Prabhakar to bat slowly and preserve wickets. Mongia has not explained as to who passed on such instructions to him. The Coach during that series, Ajit Wadekar, Captain Azharuddin, Vice-Captain Sachin Tendulkar have all denied having given such instructions. In the circumstances, it has to be presumed that it was Nayan Mongia who, on his own, passed the instructions.

The evidence against Mongia is not strong. There is no direct evidence of any player/bookie having paid Mongia money to under perform. Azharuddin’s statement does carry weight since he has implicated himself as well, but is not conclusive proof of the

involvement of Nayan Mongia. However, it has to be stated that Nayan Mongia could have only operated through other established stars since for a bookie/punter, he was not as 'valuable' as Azhar or Jadeja, to be approached individually.

Even though there is no direct evidence linking Nayan Mongia in match fixing, his being named by various sources and the fact that he is not able to explain his slow batting and passing of instructions to Manoj Prabhakar to preserve wickets rather than go for runs in the India-West Indies one-dayer in Kanpur in 1994 does bring him under strong suspicion.

DR. ALI IRANI :

CBI enquiry has disclosed that Dr. Ali Irani, Physio of the Indian Team (between 1987 to 1997), acted as a conduit between Mohd. Azharuddin and the betting syndicate. Evidence has disclosed that Dr. Ali Irani was collecting money on behalf of Azhar from MK and his associates and that he used to get a 'commission' from Azhar for this service. The evidence against Dr. Irani is discussed below.

MK has stated that Azharuddin had introduced him to Dr. Irani during the Ahmedabad Test against South Africa in 1996. Dr. Ali Irani in his statement has admitted that he was introduced to MK, by Azharuddin but knew him only as 'John'.

MK has further stated that Azharuddin had directed him to make payments towards the matches he 'did' for MK through Dr. Ali Irani. MK has also stated that on, some occasions, money to Azharuddin was paid through Dr. Irani. Dr. Irani has also admitted that he accepted money from MK and his 'representatives' on behalf of Azharuddin on a number of occasions and some of the transactions were to the tune of 10 to 15 lacs. This is also corroborated by the statement of Anil Steel that on two occasions, he had made payments to Ali Irani on behalf of MK. Dr. Irani has also confessed that he used to get around Rs. 25,000/- to 50,000/- on each occasion for rendering this service to Azharuddin. However, Azharuddin was silent about Dr. Ali Irani during his examination.

NIKHIL CHOPRA :

He figured in the enquiry since his cell phone analysis has disclosed four calls to known Bookies/punters. However, the enquiry has not brought forth evidence to indicate his involvement in match fixing/betting.

Nikhil Chopra's cell phone analysis (15.9.99 to 15.4.2000) has disclosed two calls to Rajesh Kalra, one to Sanjeev Chawla and one to Rattan Mehta, all, well known punters of Delhi. Nikhil Chopra has denied making calls to Sanjeev Chawla and Rattan Mehta and has also stated that he does not know them. He has conceded that he knows Rajesh Kalra, whom he had met in the gym at Hotel Park Royal, but denied giving him any information about cricket matches. Rajesh Kalra has stated that he had once called up Nikhil Chopra during the one-dayer at Nagpur in March 2000 between India-South Africa to find out

whether Chopra was playing or not. Ajay Sharma has said that Chopra once asked him whether he knew any bookies since his 'sala' (brother-in-law) was interested in betting.

The evidence against Nikhil Chopra only discloses that he may have spoken to some bookies/ punters. There is no evidence so far which discloses that he was into betting/ match-fixing.

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

His name has figured through information from a number of sources as a possible suspect in match fixing and related malpractices. However, the evidence against him which is discussed in detail, hereunder, is in the nature of 'hearsay'. There is no direct evidence against Sidhu to conclusively establish his role in match fixing.

MK has said that whenever Manoj Prabhakar 'fixed' a match for him, Prabhakar used to say that Sidhu was also with him. Ajay Sharma has also said that Sidhu was in league with Prabhakar and had in fact once showed him a bag containing a large amount of money, that Sidhu allegedly stated was 'Black Money' which he would show as his farm income.

Navjot Singh Sidhu has denied that he has ever been approached by any bookie or he has underperformed intentionally in any match. Manoj Prabhakar has not disclosed anything about Sidhu's involvement with him.

DELHI PLAYERS :

The enquiry has disclosed that Delhi players intentionally lost the Ranji Trophy Quarter final match against Bombay in 1991. This was basically done to facilitate the participation of some Delhi Players in league cricket in England, which would have clashed with further Ranji Trophy engagements. However, the conduct of Delhi players (other than Manoj Prabhakar) is more in the realm of unethical sporting behaviour and does not disclose any nexus with the betting syndicate. The evidence against Delhi players is discussed next.

Mukesh Kumar Gupta has stated that Manoj Prabhakar had 'sold' him the information that the Delhi team had decided to lose the Ranji Trophy Quarterfinal Match, 1991, against Bombay. Manoj Prabhakar has corroborated MK's statement and said that some of the Delhi players were contracted to play league cricket in England, which was clashing with further Ranji Trophy Matches and Delhi players had decided to lose the match against Bombay. Ajay Sharma has further corroborated MK's and Prabhakar's statement. Another member of that team, Maninder Singh, has also stated that the Delhi team was 'not serious' about winning that match. This has been further corroborated by Atul Wassan, who has however stated that there was no conscious decision to lose the match. Kirti Azad has stated that he was not aware of any such decision by the Delhi players. CBI has not examined other members of that Delhi side.

However, there is no evidence to indicate that any player other than Prabhakar received money from MK or anyone else for trading information regarding their decision to lose the match.

KAPIL DEV :

CBI has conducted an in-depth enquiry into Kapil Dev's possible role in match fixing and related malpractices. The enquiry has focussed on Manoj Prabhakar's allegations against Kapil Dev and also delved into Kapil Dev and his associate's linkages, if any, with the betting syndicate. The enquiry has so far not disclosed any evidence of Kapil Dev's role in match fixing and related malpractices.

Manoj Prabhakar has stated that during the Singer Cup, 1994, at Colombo, Sri Lanka, Kapil had offered him Rs. 25 lacs to underperform in the match against Pakistan. According to Prabhakar, Kapil Dev had come to his room when he was in the bathroom and Prabhakar's room-mate Sidhu called him out and told him that 'Paaji' had come with some offer. Thereafter, Kapil offered him Rs. 25 lacs to underperform in the next match against Pakistan. Prabhakar has further stated that he started shouting at Kapil and accused him of 'selling' the country. He has stated that Navjot Singh Sidhu was also present when this incident took place. Prabhakar added that, on hearing the commotion, Prashant Vaidya, who was in the adjoining room also came to his room to find out the reasons for the commotion. Prabhakar has further stated that after this incident, he reported the matter to Ajit Wadekar, the Coach and Mohd. Azharuddin, the Captain, during that series. He also informed Ravi Shastri and Sunil Gavaskar about the incident.

The only 'eyewitness' to this alleged incident, as claimed by Manoj, is Navjot Singh Sidhu. He has completely denied that any such incident took place in his presence. He has stated that Prabhakar had once casually told him during that series that Kapil Dev had made him an 'offer'. The possible 'chance' witness - Prashant Vaidya - has also stated that he has no knowledge of any such incident and had heard about it for the first time when somebody from the 'Outlook' magazine approached him sometime in 1997 for his version of the alleged incident. Vaidya's room mate during that tour, Nayan Mongia has also denied any knowledge of this incident. Ajit Wadekar and Mohd. Azharuddin have also denied that Prabhakar had told them about the incident.

Only Ravi Shastri has stated that Prabhakar had told him about the alleged offer about 3 to 4 days after the alleged incident, but he did not believe him.

Prabhakar was also asked by CBI vide letter dated 30.8.2000, whether he would volunteer to undergo Lie Detection Test to substantiate his allegations. He agreed for a conditional Lie Detection Test. However, he did not respond to our request to appear for Lie Detection Test between 25.9.2000 to 28.9.2000.

Kapil Dev has completely denied that he had made any 'offer' to Prabhakar during the Singer Cup, 1994. He has also stated that he never had the best of relationship with Prabhakar and has cited two incidents which could have motivated Prabhakar to make

allegations against him. One of these incidents relates to the 1987 series in England, when Kapil Dev included Madan Lal in the playing eleven at the expense of Prabhakar, although Madan Lal was not in the original team and was only playing league cricket in England. The other incident relates to the advice given by Kapil Dev to the Escort Management not to include Prabhakar in the Board of Directors of Escorts Ltd.

CBI has also gone through the 'Tehelka Tapes' and evaluated the observations made about Kapil Dev by Jaywant Lele, Ajit Wadekar, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Prashant Vaidya, Ravi Shastri, Sunil Gavaskar, etc., but no credible and actionable evidence can be deduced from their observations.

There is thus no credible evidence to substantiate the allegation of Manoj Prabhakar that Kapil Dev had offered him Rs. 25 lacs to underperform during the Singer Cup Series, 1994, in Sri Lanka.

Kapil Dev was also probed with regard to his linkages, if any, with the betting syndicate. His telephone/cell phone analysis has not disclosed any contact with bookies/punters. Two of his close associates Karun Dube and Hiren Hathi were also enquired into to find whether Kapil Dev could have operated through them. The enquiry has not disclosed either Karun Dube or Hiren Hathi having linkages with the betting syndicate. Their telephone/ cell phone analysis has also not indicated any contacts with bookies/punters.

Uttamchand, a bookie from Chennai, has stated that Kapil Dev had on one occasion played cards in a large group at Hotel Adyar Park Sheraton, Chennai. Although Uttamchand was a part of that card playing group, he did not personally know Kapil Dev and the 'card group' was also organised by one Hira Lal and not by him. Kapil Dev has admitted that he is fond of playing cards and has been to card sessions at Hotel Adyar Park in the company of Bharat Reddy, ex-wicket keeper of India. However, there is no evidence of any contact between Uttamchand and Kapil Dev thereafter.

Kapil Dev is very close to Ajay Jadeja and has stated that Jadeja is like a son to him. However, there is no evidence to indicate that Kapil Dev has used Jadeja as a conduit to the betting syndicate.

With regard to the 1999 Ahmedabad Test against New Zealand, Sachin Tendulkar has stated that the decision not to enforce follow-on was collective, influenced by the fact that bowlers, especially Srinath, had expressed that they were too tired. Kapil Dev has corroborated this version. Moreover, both of them have stated that the decision was arrived at during the lunch on the 4th day. There is no evidence that Kapil Dev had passed on any information to the betting syndicate about this match.

In the case of Kapil Dev, no evidence has surfaced so far of his linkages with the betting syndicate, both during his playing career and after retirement. In fact, the CBI has examined a number of bookies/ punters of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Lucknow, and other places, but the name of Kapil Dev does not figure as a possible suspect in any of their statements.

In conclusion, it can be said that there is no credible evidence to prove Prabhakar's allegations against Kapil Dev and further, of Kapil Dev's linkages with the betting syndicate during his playing career or after retirement.

FOREIGN PLAYERS :

In this section, the evidence that has come up during CBI enquiry against players of other countries is discussed;

Sri Lanka : MK has stated that Arvinda D'silva and Arjuna Ranatunga were introduced to him by Manoj Prabhakar. Manoj Prabhakar has denied this. However, MK has further stated that both Ranatunga and D'silva had 'fixed' the Lucknow Test in 1994 between India-Sri Lanka. He has added that he had paid a sum of \$ 15,000/- to D'silva for 'doing' that match. He has further stated that Arvinda D'silva had 'telephonically introduced' him to Martin Crowe in New Zealand sometime in 1991.

New Zealand : MK has stated that he met Martin Crowe in New Zealand, sometime in 1991, after being introduced by D'silva. He has stated that he met Martin Crowe at his residence and Crowe's wife Simone was also present during the meeting. MK has further stated that he paid a sum of \$20,000/- to Crowe to get information about the pitch, team composition, weather, etc. whenever the New Zealand team played. However, MK says that Crowe refused to fix any matches for him.

Australia : Mukesh Kumar Gupta has stated that he was introduced to Dean Jones by Manoj Prabhakar in Sri Lanka during a festival match. Manoj Prabhakar has denied this. MK has further stated that he had offered a sum of \$ 40,000/- to Jones to provide him 'information' about Australian Team's strategy, morale, pitch conditions, weather, etc. whenever they played. Jones refused the offer and told MK that Alan Border had seen him talking to MK and that if Border came to know of the link between the two, Jones' career would be in jeopardy.

MK has also stated that he was introduced to Mark Waugh by Prabhakar during a six-a-side tournament in Hong Kong. Prabhakar has accepted this fact. MK has further stated that he paid a sum of \$ 20,000/- to Mark Waugh to provide 'information' about pitch, weather, team strategy, morale etc. whenever Australia played.

England : MK has stated that Alec Stewart was introduced to him by Manoj Prabhakar in 1993. Prabhakar has also accepted this fact. MK discloses that he paid 5000 pounds to Alec Stewart in exchange for information about pitch, weather, team composition, etc. whenever England played. MK has further stated that Alec Stewart, however, refused to fix any matches for him.

West Indies : MK has stated that Prabhakar had tried to 'telephonically introduce' him to Gus Logie, who, however, refused to talk to MK. Prabhakar has confirmed this in his statement. MK discloses that Prabhakar introduced him to Brian Lara. Prabhakar has

accepted this in his statement. According to MK, he paid a sum of \$ 40,000 to Brian Lara to underperform in two one dayers when West Indies toured India in 1994.

South Africa : MK has stated that he was introduced to Hansie Cronje by Mohd. Azharuddin in 1996 during the India-South Africa Test at Kanpur. Azharuddin has also accepted this in his statement. MK has further stated that he paid a sum of \$40,000 to Cronje on the third day of Kanpur Test to ensure that South Africa lost and also as an 'investment' for future. He has also stated that Cronje wanted to 'tie-up' the Mohinder Amarnath benefit match at Bombay with him, but informed him at around 3 a.m. on the day of the match that it would not be possible. MK has further stated that he had got around \$ 50,000 transferred to the bank account of Hansie Cronje in South Africa to 'fix' matches when India toured South Africa in 1996-97. He has, however, stated that most of the matches did not turn out as arranged with Cronje.

Pakistan : MK has stated that Salim Malik was introduced to him by Manoj Prabhakar at Delhi before a match between Wills Cup winners of Pakistan and Wills Cup winners of India. Prabhakar has accepted this in his statement. The match MK is referring to was played between Habib Bank of Pakistan and Wills-XI of India on October 13, 1991 at Ferozeshah Kotla. MK has stated that he paid a sum of Rs. 8 lacs to Salim Malik to fix that match without the knowledge of Javed Miandad who was captaining the Pakistani side. MK has stated that he does not know who were the other players roped in by Malik. The match was won by Wills-XI India after a tight finish. The scores were :

Habib Bank - 232 for 4 in 45 overs

Salim Malik 32 (run out)

Wills XI - 236 for 8 in 44.3 overs

MK has also stated that Salim Malik had given him the 'information' during Singer Cup, 1994 at Sri Lanka that Pakistan would lose a particular match against Australia in that series, which turned out to be correct.

Rattan Mehta, a big time punter of Delhi, has stated that he is on very friendly terms with some Pakistani players including Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saeed Anwar and Inzamam-Ul-Haq. He has also stated that he has on some occasions sought their 'judgment' on matches involving Pakistan. He further stated that he had given some 'small gifts' to Pakistan players on a few occasions.

Anil Steel, the bookie from Mumbai, has stated that he is on very friendly terms with Asif Iqbal, the former Pakistan Captain. He has also stated that he has sought 'information' from Asif Iqbal about International matches and has also given him 'gifts' of jewellery items, etc. Anil Steel has disclosed that he introduced MK to Asif Iqbal during the World Cup inaugural ceremony at Calcutta in 1996. MK has stated that Asif Iqbal had introduced him to Jaisurya at Sharjah, sometime in 1996.

CBI has not conducted in-depth enquiry into the linkages of overseas players with Indian bookies/ punters. Foreign players have also not been examined to verify the evidence of Indian bookies/ punters.

The evidence that has emerged during the enquiry till now against various Indian and foreign players has been discussed in detail. However, certain other leads, which require verification have emerged during the enquiry and the enquiry will therefore continue. There is also a possibility of more evidence being unearthed with regard to some of the players against whom allegations of match-fixing and related malpractices are already established. Some of the bookies/ punters examined by CBI have hinted that malpractices have crept into the veterans circuit as well. Enquiry will continue with regard to these aspects also.

SECTION-IV

THE LEGAL POSITION

The important question that arises now is whether the findings of the enquiry into allegations of match fixing and related malpractices connected with the game of cricket constitute any offences under the penal laws of India and whether facts as disclosed in the enquiry are sufficient to institute a case for any criminal offence.

This matter has been examined in detail within the CBI. The legal position arising out of the facts of enquiry was also discussed with Justice Monoj Kumar Mukherjee, former Judge, Supreme Court of India and with Shri Harish Salve, Solicitor General of India, and their written opinion has been obtained.

The Legal Adviser/CBI has analysed the provisions of section 120-A IPC dealing with criminal conspiracy and section 415 IPC dealing with cheating and has come to the conclusion that the facts of enquiry in the instant case do not constitute an offence under the aforesaid sections of law. He has also examined the possibility of application of provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1998 and opined that technically a case u/s 13(1)(d)(i) (criminal misconduct) and section 13(1)(e) (disproportionate assets) can be made out against some of the players who are public servants.

Justice Monoj Kumar Mukherjee has discussed at length the provisions of various penal laws including the Indian Penal Code, the Public Gambling Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the excerpts of opinion of Justice Mukherjee on aforesaid laws are as follows:

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE:

“To seek answers to the questions raised, the Indian Penal Code has to be first looked into. The only sections of the Code which need consideration are sections 415, 417 and 420. Section 415, which defines ‘cheating’ reads as under:-

Whoever, by deceiving any person, fraudulently or dishonestly induces the person so deceived to deliver any property to any person, or to consent that any person shall retain any property, or intentionally induces the person so deceived to do or omit to do anything which he would not do or omit if he were not so deceived, and which act or omission causes or is likely to cause damage or harm to that person in body, mind, reputation or property, is said to “cheat”.

Explanation - A dishonest concealment of facts is a deception within the meaning of this section.

On an analysis of the section, it is seen that it consists of two parts. First comes the main part which speaks of deceiving a person and is common to both the modes of deceiving as specified in the second part. The modes are: (i) by fraudulently or dishonestly inducing that person to deliver any property to any person or to consent that any person shall retain any property; or (ii) by intentionally inducing that person to do or omit to do anything which he would not do or omit if he were not so deceived, and which act or omission causes or is likely to cause damage or harm to that person in body, mind, reputation or property. It is thus seen that ‘deceiving’ is the quintessence of the offence of cheating; and, when a person deceives another person to induce him to act in any of the manners stated above, the offence is complete. To put it differently, the inducement must be by the deceit.

The words ‘deceit’ and ‘deceive’, however, have not been defined in the Penal Code and hence their dictionary meaning needs to be looked into. Culling the meaning of the above words from the various dictionaries, it is seen that a false representation or a misleading statement, express or implied, pertaining to a present or past existing fact, is the sine qua non of ‘deceit’. The deceit can be practised by expressly or impliedly making a false representation or misleading statement; (*suggestio falsi*), or by dishonest concealment of facts while making the representation/statement (*suppressio veri*), as explained in section 415, or by conduct. Needless to say, what will be sufficient to constitute deceit has got to be decided on the facts of a given case.

As noticed earlier, the offence of cheating encompasses cases in which there is delivery/retention of property as also cases in which there is no such element. Since section 417 provides for ‘Punishment for cheating’, it may apparently seem that it covers both those categories; but, as section 420 specifically provides for punishment of cases relating to delivery of property and to valuable security, it is to be legitimately inferred that the former relates to simple cases of cheating by the second mode enumerated in section 415. This inference is reinforced by the fact that whereas offence under 417 is non-cognizable and punishable with imprisonment for one year only or fine, section 420 is a cognizable offence and punishable with imprisonment for seven years and fine.

Judged in the light of the above principles of law, it is difficult to hold, on the basis of the materials collected during inquiry, that a case of cheating has been made out. There is no material from which it can be said, even prima facie, that the delinquent players induced the BCCI to select them, by practising deceit upon it in any of the manners enumerated earlier so as to bring them within the ambit of section 417. I am told that for selection of players, no prior declaration or undertaking relating to the code of conduct to be followed by them is taken. If it was so taken and if there was any misleading statement or false representation or suppression of relevant facts made by the player concerned therein, it might be said that the offence punishable under section 417 was made out. I hasten to add that offence under section 420 IPC would not have been still made out for the money (property) which the players received was for a consideration, that is, for participation in the tournament concerned. While on this point, it is pertinent to mention that in the letters intimating the players about their selection, the BCCI writes “we are sure, you will put up your best efforts in the interest of the country” and wilful non-performance/under performance in spite thereof amounts not only to breach of faith and of sporting ethics but also of undermining the prestige of the country and people at large. Nonetheless, however reprehensible the conduct of the players concerned may be, it cannot be brought within the parameters of ‘cheating’, as defined in the Code.”

PUBLIC GAMBLING ACT 1867:

“Thus said, the law relating to gambling in India may be looked into. As far back as in 1867, Public Gambling Act, (Central Act III of 1867) was enacted to provide for the punishment of public gambling and keeping of common gaming houses. Though this antiquated law is still in the Statute Book, it has lost its utility as, later on, most of the States of India, including Bombay and Delhi, enacted their own laws for the self-same purpose. Since the provisions of the Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act, 1887 and the Delhi Public Gambling Act, 1955 are similar, reference to the relevant provisions of one of them will suffice.

In the Delhi Act, ‘gaming’ is defined in section 2(c) to include betting (except upon a horse race in certain contingencies) and ‘common gaming house’ in 2(iii) to mean any house or room or tent or enclosure or vehicle or vessel or any place whatsoever in which any instruments of gaming are kept or used for gaming purposes. Section 3 of the Act lays down the penalty for owning or keeping or having charge of a gaming house; and the penalty is imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees. Section 5 lays down that an officer below the rank of a Superintendent of Police needs a warrant or an authority to take into custody all persons found in a place used as common gaming house.

In the instant case, even if cogent materials are made available to prove that any of the persons arraigned is guilty of the offence under section 3 of the above Act or similar provision or other State Acts, and if it is decided to take steps for launching prosecution in a competent Court of Law, the following facts and circumstances need be considered:

(i) The question of limitation under Chapter XXXVI of the code of criminal procedure; and

(ii) The punishment provided for the offence is lenient and is not at all commensurate with the magnitude of the crime.”

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT 1988:

As most of the players under scrutiny do not come within the definition of ‘Public Servants’ as defined in Section 2(c) of the Act, this law is not applicable to them. However, two of the cricketers under scrutiny, viz., Mohd. Azharuddin who is working with the State Bank of India and Ajay Sharma who is working with the Central Warehousing Corporation, are ‘public servants’ as defined in Section 2(c) of the Act. The opinion of Justice Monoj Kumar Mukherjee in respect of these players vis-a-vis the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is :-

“In view of their such employment, the above two players are undoubtedly ‘public servants’ within the meaning of section 2(c) of the Act, but as they have accepted/obtained money by using/abusing their position as cricketers and not as ‘public servants’, they would not be liable for prosecution for those offences in which acceptance/obtainment of money by a public servant has a nexus with his official position/act/function; and these offences are enumerated in sections 7, 11 and 13 (1) (a), (b), (c) and d (ii). That necessarily means, those who offered money to them also cannot be prosecuted under section 12 of the Act, for abetment.

However, the other offences under the Act, namely, sections 13(1) (d)(i) and (iii) and 13(1)(e) do not lay down that in committing those offences the public servant has to use/abuse his official position. Indeed, simply being a public servant or while holding office as a public servant, he can be liable for prosecution if the acts mentioned therein are committed by him. This distinction can be best understood when section 13(1) (d)(i) is read in juxtaposition with section 13(1)(d)(ii). While, under the former, a ‘public servant’ becomes liable for prosecution for committing the offence of criminal misconduct if he obtains (the subsequent words are identical in both clauses) ‘by corrupt or illegal means’, in the latter, ‘by abusing his position as a public servant’. In view of the above provisions of the Act and the materials collected during enquiry, the two players may be said to have committed offences under section 13(1) (d)(i). Needless to say, the question whether the materials so far collected will/can be ultimately translated into legal evidence for a successful prosecution has to be kept in mind. For the self same reason, the two players concerned may also be proceeded against under section 13(1)(e) of the Act, if and when sufficient materials are collected to fulfill the requirements thereof.”

This report was discussed in detail with the Solicitor General of India, Shri Harish Salve, who has scanned the evidence and is in broad agreement that no criminal charges under

cheating or under the Gambling Act can be filed against anyone because of the nebulous position of law in this regard, as well as the improbability of investigating agency being able to obtain sufficient legal evidence.

Thus, from the opinions expressed above, it is evident that, the facts as disclosed in the enquiry do not constitute any offence under the provisions of Indian Penal Code. Similarly, it is not possible to prosecute anyone under the Public Gambling Act due to the restrictions imposed as per Sec. 468 of Chapter XXXVI of the CrPC. In so far as a case u/s 13(1)(e) (disproportionate assets) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is concerned, it may be clarified that the CBI enquired only into the issue of match-fixing and related malpractices and did not conduct detailed investigation into the assets of the players. However, relevant information available with the CBI was shared with Income Tax authorities for appropriate action.

Technically, an offence u/s 13(1)(d)(i) and (iii) (criminal misconduct) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 can be registered against the two players (Mohd. Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma) answering the definition of public servants. However, looking at the issue in its totality, the question of registration of a case under the aforesaid sections of Prevention of Corruption Act is under evaluation.

SECTION-V

FUNCTIONING OF THE BCCI:

The natural corollary to the fact that disclosures during the CBI enquiry have revealed a thriving player-bookie nexus in India for nearly a decade, begs the question: what was the BCCI doing all these years? CBI has enquired into the role and functioning of BCCI to evaluate whether it could have prevented the malpractices.

CBI enquiry into the affairs of BCCI has not disclosed any direct evidence of nexus of any past or present office bearers of BCCI with the betting syndicate. However, a perusal of statements of present and past officials of the Board like S/Shri I.S. Bindra, Sunil Dev and Jaywant Lele has indicated that there were definite rumours/reports about match fixing and related malpractices from time to time. It is also quite clear that the BCCI never seriously addressed this problem till the lid was blown after Hansie Cronje affair.

It is obvious that, in spite of their public posturing now, all the office-bearers of BCCI over the past decade or so have been negligent in looking at this problem in spite of clear indications of this malaise making inroads into Indian Cricket. The primary reason behind this is the lack of accountability of BCCI to anyone. The structure of BCCI is such that it is very difficult for any person who has not previously held a post in BCCI or

affiliate units to get into Cricket administration in India. This not only prevents infusion of fresh blood and ideas but also perpetuates a system of self-aggrandisement. Even in the State Units, it is extremely difficult to become a Member or an Office- Bearer for any person even with good cricketing credentials. Most of the State Units are perpetually in the control of a family or a group since its inception. A case in point is the Rajasthan Cricket Association which is being run by the family of Rungtas since its inception and, at present, even includes 10 employees of Rungta's as Members of RCA. Such members are basically incorporated to ensure that the unchallenged supremacy of a particular group is not threatened during elections. It is also interesting to note that one Ayub Gauri of Jaipur, with suspected underworld links, was in charge of security for a particular gate in a match between India and Pakistan at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur in 1999.

One of the important sources of revenue of affiliate units is grant of in-stadia rights for advertising for domestic and international matches. In most instances, in-stadia rights are granted without following a uniform system, thus promoting arbitrariness. There is a need for greater transparency in this area. The system of zonal representation in BCCI and its Selection Committee also needs to be reviewed since this basically attempts at distributing the fishes and loaves of office which also breeds parochialism. The functioning of BCCI at present reflects a dichotomy between running the affairs of the Board and administering Cricket, in which only the first aspect receives overwhelming primacy.

There are quite a few who believe that player selection at the lower levels, such as Under 19, Ranji Trophy, etc., is not always on merit. Patronage and nepotism operate rather blatantly. A more transparent system based on performance revealed by devices such as the Ceat ratings and ratings as devised by ESPN would greatly enhance the cricket administration's credibility in respect of promotion of talent.

There is no transparency even in the appointment of Coaches, Managers, Physiotherapists, etc. who are elected in the AGM after their names are suggested by some of the members. There is no panel available with BCCI, from which names can be discussed and thereafter ratified on merit. Basically, these appointments are an extension of patronage system to persons who curry favour with the office bearers of BCCI.

CBI enquiry has disclosed that, consequent to the commercial success of Reliance World Cup in 1987, the coffers of the Board started overflowing with big money coming in through sponsorship and television rights. A perusal of the Board's financial statement discloses that from a profit of Rs.5.06 lakhs in the financial year 1987-88, the profits soared to Rs.8.37 Crores in the financial year 1998-99. In normal circumstances, this happy situation should have been reflected in the performance of Indian team in the international arena. The argument here is that swelling coffers of BCCI should have resulted in better coaching facilities, better maintenance of cricket stadiums, infusion of

more money into domestic matches, building up of a reserve pool of players and use of professionals, like sports physicians, dietitians, etc. This has not, however, happened in the Indian context. On the other hand, BCCI started a process of commercialisation of cricket without any vision as to how this money could be ploughed back to ensure better performance on the field.

Some of the policies of BCCI during the past decade which have directly contributed to match fixing and related malpractices are -

(a) frequent tours to controversial venues like Sharjah, Singapore, Toronto, etc.; (b) thoughtless increase in One Day Internationals.

CBI enquiry into match fixing allegations has indicated that matches in non-regular venues such as Toronto & Singapore may be more prone to fixing/betting as there is carnival-like atmosphere of non-seriousness at these venues. India is the only country which plays regularly in these arenas even at the cost of not touring regular Test playing nations like Australia, West Indies, South Africa, etc. which makes more sense in cricketing terms. The ostensible reason put forth by BCCI for touring these lesser venues is globalisation of cricket. It is difficult to understand why India should shoulder this burden when countries with a longer cricketing history like England and Australia are not doing so. In addition to this, is the disproportionate increase in One Day matches being played by India vis-a-vis other Test playing nations. For example, in 1999 India played nearly 40 ODIs and is scheduled to play 53 ODIs in the first 13 months of year 2000-2001, which is one of the highest by a Test-playing nation.

The aforesaid factors have contributed to malpractices in two ways: (a) the players are more exposed to betting syndicates in non-regular venues; and (b) a surfeit of ODIs result in lower levels of motivation for players who may get a feeling that there is nothing wrong in throwing an occasional match.

Moreover, due to the extremely busy schedule charted out for the national players, they hardly get any time to participate in domestic cricket matches. This has led to a decline in the standards of domestic cricket, as a result of which hardly any players of International standards are being thrown up. The off-shoot is that the reserve strength of the Indian bench is pathetic when compared to countries like Australia who can put up a world class side from their reserve strength itself. With their positions in the national side not being threatened by the reserve bench strength or fresh talent, it is only natural for members of the Indian team to become complacent and more susceptible to the lure of match fixing, etc. as their position would not be under threat for lack of performance in a few matches.

During this enquiry, no evidence has come forth to prove that office-bearers of the BCCI over the years have received any money to ensure India's participation in any tournament. However, a study of guarantee money received by BCCI in some of the tournaments shows an interesting trend which indicates that it is not commensurate with India's standing in the cricketing world. Today, every second person in the world watching cricket 'live' on television is probably an Indian which gives an enormous clout in financial terms to the BCCI. In view of this, BCCI can fix its own terms to tour any country to ensure its participation in an event since the television rights for any tournament featuring India can be sold for a very heavy amount. But this position is not reflected in the guarantee money received by BCCI as illustrated below:

Tournament

Guarantee Money Received by BCCI

Money received by Hosts for Television rights over India for the series

ICC Wills Cup, 1998, Bangladesh

Rs.46 lakhs

Rs.35 Crores.

Coca Cola Cup, 1998, Sharjah

Rs.68 Lakhs

Rs.17 Crores.

World Cup, 1999, UK

Rs.1.5 Crores.

Rs.26 Crores.

These figures are self-explanatory and indicate that India has undersold itself due to reasons not satisfactorily explained by BCCI office-bearers during their examination by CBI. This enquiry has not looked into the matter of grant of television rights since this issue is being dealt with separately.

In conclusion, the BCCI has been negligent in not preventing match-fixing and related malpractices in cricket in spite of clear signals about the malaise. This is mainly due to the fact that, for most office-bearers of BCCI, running the Board is an end in itself and the future of cricket is only incidental. However, the solution does not lie in the creation of a new administrative structure or overriding bureaucratic control on the existing structure. It, perhaps, lies in making the functioning of BCCI more professional, transparent and accountable to a non-bureaucratic autonomous authority.

SECTION-VI

CONCLUSIONS

The enquiry conducted by CBI has disclosed the following:

. Small scale betting on cricket matches has been taking place in India for a long time. Betting on a major scale started only after India won the World Cup in 1983.

. Betting on cricket matches has been on the upswing ever since live telecast of cricket matches started on a regular basis.

. Betting on cricket matches in India has attained a measure of sophistication and it has spread across the length and breadth of the country. The use of computer and mobile phone has given a major fillip to this racket.

. Betting on cricket in India, in terms of monetary turn-over and volume of transactions, is perhaps the biggest organised racket. According to rough estimates, the turn-over, on account of betting on any One-Day International match anywhere in the world, runs into hundreds of crores.

. There are clear signals that the underworld mafia has started taking interest in the betting racket and can be expected to take overall control of this activity, if not checked immediately with a firm hand. It does appear that what may have been small-time wagering (which to some extent is inevitable) has now been replaced by an organised syndicate, and this syndicate has started interfering with the purity of the sport. It has been the negligence of the police and the other regulatory authorities, that has allowed wagering to turn into an organised racket, particularly with the involvement of the underworld mafia. The game has lost a considerable degree of its credibility already, and it will be a matter of national shame if the problems which are, to some extent apparent from the evidence gathered and narrated in the report, are not immediately and decisively resolved.

. With a large amount of money at stake in the betting racket on cricket, it makes sense for both bookies and punters to manipulate results of cricket matches. This has resulted in their developing a close and unholy relationship with cricketers.

. Ajay Sharma introduced Md. Azharuddin, Manoj Prabhakar and Ajay Jadeja to Bookie Mukesh Kr. Gupta @ M.K. @ John. He also introduced Mohd. Azharuddin to big time punter Ajay Gupta. Ajay Sharma received lakhs of rupees from M.K. and Ajay Gupta & Associates for this service. He also provided information regarding matches to M.K. Gupta and was also instrumental in getting a tailor-made pitch prepared for a Test Match on the instructions of M.K. for monetary considerations. The difficulties in gathering any concrete evidence to establish any of these facts in a court of law has been considerably accentuated by the lapse of time between the events and the investigation. If the matters had been investigated contemporaneously, perhaps far more effective results could have been attained.

. Manoj Prabhakar is close to a number of bookies and punters, namely, Mukesh Kr. Gupta @ M.K. @ John, Tipu Kohli, Anand Saxena, Rajesh Kalra, Sanjeev Chawla, Sunil Dara and Mashal, etc. He introduced a number of foreign players and also provided 'information' about Test Matches, One-Day Internationals, one Ranji Trophy Match to bookie M.K. Gupta @ John. For introducing the foreign players and providing 'information' regarding matches, he received large sums of money from M.K. and Tipu Kohli.

. Md. Azharuddin has fixed matches/performance for a bookie 'M.K. Gupta' @ 'M.K.' @ 'John' and big time punters Ajay Gupta and Associates, with the help of Ajay Jadeja and Nayan Mongia. He has also received large sums of money running into lakhs from M.K. Gupta and Ajay Gupta and Associates directly and also on a number of occasions through Dr. Ali Irani, who was well aware of the activities of Md. Azharuddin and the reason for the payments. The involvement of the Captain of the cricket team is qualitatively different from the involvement of stray players, such as Ajay Sharma or even other important players. It is the Captain of the team who has to keep the closest watch on the game on the field. Besides, the involvement of the Captain, particularly in efforts to underperform, destroys the very ethos of the team event.

. Ajay Jadeja is very close to some bookies and big time Punters, namely, Uttam Chand @ Topi, Rattan Mehta, Rajesh Kalra, Krishan Kumar (implicated in the Hansie Cronje case). He gave 'assessment' of cricket matches to Rattan Mehta, a big time punter. He also passed on 'information' to bookie Uttam Chand @ Topi, for monetary considerations. He also met M.K. Gupta and offered his services for fixing matches and also received money from M.K. at this meeting. He is also named by Md. Azharuddin as one of the players who was with him in fixing matches.

.Nayan Mongia has been named by Md. Azharuddin as one of the players involved with him in fixing matches.

. Dr. Ali Irani was aware of the activities of Md. Azharuddin in fixing matches and also acted as a conduit for receiving payments on behalf of Azharuddin from M.K. & Associates. Azharuddin also paid him money on each occasion that he received payments on his behalf.

.A number of foreign players were introduced by Manoj Prabhakar to bookie M.K. Gupta @ M.K. @ John who either offered or paid money to them. Some of them are:

- (i) Alec Stewart,
- (ii) Brian Lara,
- (iii) Mark Waugh,
- (iv) Dean Jones,

- (v) Hansie Cronje,
- (vi) Arvinda D'Silva,
- (vii) Arjuna Ranatunga,
- (viii) Martin Crowe,
- (ix) Salim Malik.

. Asif Iqbal, former Cricket Captain of Pakistan, is close to Anil Steel, bookie of Mumbai. Asif Iqbal has, on occasions, provided information about cricket matches to Anil Steel and has also received gifts from him.

. Big time punter Rattan Mehta is extremely close to the entire Pakistan team who have even visited his restaurant in Vasant Vihar. He claims he is particularly close to Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Inzamam-Ul-Haq and Saeed Anwar. He also claims to have received opinion on matches from them and also having given 'small gifts' to Pakistan players on a few occasions.

. The 'bona fides' of the allegation of Manoj Prabhakar that he was offered Rs.25 lakhs by Kapil Dev to underperform in a cricket match against Pakistan during Singer Cup in Srilanka in 1994 has not been established.

. The BCCI has been the single biggest beneficiary of the enormous commercial success of the sport. It is a matter of record that the BCCI earns substantial sums from media exposure of the game -- which media exposure is in fact responsible for the qualitative change that has come about in the entire scenario. It would be the elementary duty of anybody purporting to be the apex regulatory body of a sport, to keep a close watch on the performance of the team, and to thoroughly investigate into the slightest gossip, leave alone suspicion, of any malpractice.

. The BCCI, however, did not care to even investigate allegations which were bound to have been within their knowledge (for example, where there was a serious controversy over a slowdown in the run rate in the Kanpur one-dayer, 1994). Although, there is no concrete evidence to suggest the direct involvement of any of the members of the BCCI in match fixing, their resolute indifference does give rise to suspicion that there was perhaps more than that meets the eye. It defies credulity to believe that the apex body was oblivious to such rampant match fixing and, therefore, did not find the need to investigate thoroughly the results of matches which are patently questionable.

. The appointments of professionals like coaches, physiotherapists, selectors are made more or less in an arbitrary manner. Names are suggested by the members of the BCCI and its affiliate Units whose knowledge and insight into cricket is questionable.

. Although the BCCI today is cash rich, it does appear that, over the years, it has undersold Indian Cricket with regard to guarantee money, etc.

.BCCI is in control of huge amounts of public funds without any concomitant rules, regulations/laws that govern the manner in which public funds are to be utilised. There is no accountability of any office-bearer of the BCCI similar to the one imposed on public servants when dealing with public funds.

.There are many facets of match fixing and related malpractices in cricket which need further investigation. In order to unravel the entire sordid nexus between the cricket players, bookies and punters, the CBI enquiry will continue.

A FINAL WORD

The crisis facing cricket today is very different and far more sinister than the 'body line' controversy. Cricket, as it is played at present, does not appear to be the same game played by Sir Don Bradman or Neville Cardus wrote about. The romanticism associated with the game is perhaps gone for ever. Increasingly, in the playing fields around the world, the music of a sweetly timed stroke is being replaced by the harsh cacophony of ringing cell phones. Both inducements and threats to players are bound to increase in view of the big money involved in gambling on cricket and the entry of the underworld. Major corrective steps need to be taken to put cricket back on rails.