

Title: Statement by the Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports regarding cricket match fixing.

12.06 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

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THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): Sir, the issue of match fixing has been at the centre stage of media reporting for the last few weeks. It has also been debated in the two Houses of Parliament. I have already made statements in both the Houses of Parliament on this issue. In my statement, I had mentioned that the Government would not hesitate to initiate an inquiry in the matter of match fixing by any agency of the Government, as required. On the basis of several news items in prominent magazines and newspapers of the country, as also the statements of prominent cricket administrators and players, there is a need to inquire into the matter further.

The Government believes that those who are guilty must be punished, those who are innocent must not be slandered, those who have evidence must co-operate and shall be given adequate protection and those who make ill-founded allegations must be exposed.

Keeping in view the sentiments expressed by hon. Members in both Houses of Parliament, the sensitivity of the case and the complexities involved, as also the issue of jurisdiction, the Government has decided to entrust the matter to the CBI for appropriate inquiry and necessary action. During the discussions in Parliament on this issue, the predominant view was to entrust this matter to the CBI. It is hoped that this inquiry will clear the air of rumours and suspicion surrounding this subject.

The case already registered by the Delhi Police under FIR No.111/2000 against Hansi Cronje and others will be pursued by the Delhi Police to its logical conclusion.
