

Arrest of five star players participating in the tournament for Table Tennis Championship

58. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the circumstances under which five star table tennis players were arrested recently in the course of the tournament for Table Tennis Championship;

(b) what is the period for which they were detained and whether any specific charges were framed against them; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure orderly conduct of tournaments, preserving fair traditions in sports and freedom from interference by vested interests in sports events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI DHANNA SINGH GULSHAN):
(a) to (c). A statement is attached.

Statement

While the relevant information from the Government of Gujarat is awaited, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has stated that on 28th December, 1977, Shri Pankaj Butalia, Secretary, Indian Table Tennis Players Association alongwith a few other players pleaded with the President, TTFI, for inclusion of Shri Santosh Kaushik of Madhya Pradesh in the qualifying round of the men's singles of the 39th National Table Tennis Tournament Championships scheduled to be held at Vallabh Vidya Nagar in December, 1977. It was explained by the President, TTFI, to Shri Pankaj Butalia and others that under the rules the name of Shri Santosh Kaushik, whose name had not been included by the M.P. State Association, could not be included in the tournament. Having failed in their efforts to get the name of Shri Kaushik included, Shri Pankaj Butalia and other two members rush-

ed to the playing arena, shouted slogans and intimidated the other players who were present. There was thus a general commotion created within the arena and the Chief Referee had no alternative but to announce the walk over of the players. Again at 3 P.M. when the Managers of the teams managed to bring their players to the arena some of the senior players rushed into the arena, shouted slogans and physically dragged some of the players who were about to enter the playing arena. In view of the representation made by the student population of the Sardar Patel University and by the Secretaries/Managers of some of the State Associations, who wanted protection to their young players, the Organising Committee of the tournament lodged a complaint with the police as a preventive measure and the police took into custody five of the players who had caused disturbance in the arena the previous day. The five players were arrested in the early hours of 29th December and released on bail at 8 P.M. the same day. According to press reports the arrests were made on a complaint filed by the Tournament Organising Committee with the police that they apprehended violence.

The organisation and conduct of tournaments is entirely in the hands of National Sports Federations/Associations, which are autonomous bodies. The maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the State Government who are to ensure orderly conduct of tournaments.

Incidence of Malaria in the country

59. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the incidence of malaria during 1977 and the forecast made by the experts regarding the continuance of the disease during the coming years;