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IOA blasts Doordarshan

NEW DELHI, September 15 (PTI): The Indian Olympic Association has come out in favour of the Reliance Cup organising committee's demand for royalty from Doordarshan.

The IOA secretary-general, Dr R. L. Anand, said here today that the organising committee's demand of nine per cent share in the revenue earnings of Doordarshan from telecasting the Reliance Cup was a "very reasonable one".

Mr Anand said he appreciated the lead being given by the Reliance Cup organising committee, with Mr N.K.P. Salve at its head, in fighting for the "just cause" of Indian sports and the IOA. The apex body for Olympic sports in India, "not only endorses Mr Salve's stand but supports it wholeheartedly".

Dr Anand said he saw no reason why Doordarshan should turn down the "just demand" of the organising committee.

"As a matter of fact," he said, "the entire proceeds of the commercials shown on TV during sports events should go to sports development".

Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra, president of the General Association of National Sports Federations (India), said the arguments put forth by the

Doordarshan director-general yesterday were "irrelevant".

He said even in countries where the TV is state-owned, royalty is still paid.

TOINS adds: Mr N. K. P. Salve reacted sharply to an agency item from London that the Reliance Cup has been thrown into fresh turmoil by rumours from Australia that five England players may be refused visas by the Indian High Commission because of their South African links.

Mr Salve made it clear that there was no visa problem for any player nor does he see any before the Reliance Cup begins. "I have just checked with the external affairs ministry also and they too expressed surprise at these reports," he said.

London, (AFP): English umpire Dickie Bird has slammed plans by the Reliance Cup organisers to issue umpires with pocket televisions to help them make correct decisions.

"It's just not cricket and I'm certainly against it," said Bird, one of two English umpires selected for the tournament.

Sydney, Reuters: Peter Sleep was dropped from the 15-man Australian squad for the Reliance Cup, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said today.