

## Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

FORMER CRICKETER

# My MONEY



MADHU KAPPARATH

**My richest treasures are the relationships I value, in the family and in the community.**

During my cricketing days, there wasn't as much money in the game as there is today: we were, for instance, paid Rs 750 per Test. And players didn't have as many big-money brand endorsements on offer. About the only product I recall endorsing dur-

ing those days was a bat—Symonds—for which I received a princely sum of Rs 2,000!

Playing conditions then, even at the Test level, weren't so good. Some of the places we were put up in were quite awful. I was more outspoken than others, and when I was captain, I took up these matters with the cricket board. Unlike a lot of other players, I wasn't dependent on cricket to get a job: and when your liveli-

hood isn't at stake, I guess you're rather more free to speak your mind!

I succeeded my father as Nawab of Pataudi in 1952—when I was 11—but by then it had no executive authority and, therefore, there was no revenue from the state: that power had been ceded with the accession of the erstwhile princely states on the eve of India's independence. Even so, we had a bit of land revenue and agricultural income. And until 1971, we didn't pay excise on petrol, didn't pay electricity bills... But the abolition of the Privy Purse took away a lot of those privileges; and the urban and agricultural land ceiling Acts hit us very hard. Then, again, I had income from various other sources: I served as director of a few companies—of friends you couldn't say no to.

These days, I'm very conservative with my investments: I go only for property and tax-free bonds. I've dabbled in the stock market, but I don't any more because it isn't regulated strictly enough. But the investment that matters the most to me is the education of my children. Being the head of

the family comes with a sense of responsibility, some obligation, to the family and to society. I value these relationships immensely, and nurturing them is, for me, very fulfilling. ||

As told to V. Venkatesan