

Governments in the form of sales tax, rent as land given to. salt pans, royalty etc.

(b) if so, the details of above tax, royalty etc. imposed on per metric tonne of salt and rent collected per annum, per acre of land given to salt pans for last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether steps will be taken to exempt salt from tax in the light of Seventy fifth anniversary of "Dandi March".

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial crunch in Bihar

3481. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar is facing financial crunch;

(b) if so, what contingency and long-term plans are being made to meet the situation; and'

(c) the details of suggestions/requests received by the Central Government in this regard; and the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has not assessed the State of Bihar as a revenue deficit State.

(b) Does not arise. TFC has recommended total transfer of estimated share in taxes and grants during 2005-10 of Rs. 75,646.83 crore for Bihar.

(c) No specific request has been received from the State in this regard.

Powers to excise authorities to attach assets

3482. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to arm excise authorities with powers to provisionally attach assets including property when assessments are still in process;

(b) if so, whether a separate Bill to this effect is being introduced in Parliament; and