

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †2963**

TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, August 7, 2023/ Sravana 16, 1945 (Saka)

**CENTRAL DEBT ON BIHAR**

†2963. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bihar is one of the poorest States in the country due to lack of natural resources, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is huge central debt on Bihar and as a result thereof the State is facing difficulty in repaying the interest of central debt;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to waive off the central debt and its interest to Bihar; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a): The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (15<sup>th</sup> FC) has considered the Area and Forest and Ecology as criteria with a weight of 15% and 10% respectively for Horizontal Devolution of States' share in the Divisible Pool for its award period 2021-26. Further, as per assessment of the 15<sup>th</sup> FC, the State of Bihar has inter-se share of the Area and Forest and Ecology as 2.643% and 0.930% respectively. Further, as per the information published in 'State Finances Audit Report for the year ended 31 March, 2022' by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the State of Bihar has mobilized an amount of Rs. 1,572.07 crore as revenues from mineral resources in the terminal year of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission award period 2019-20, which has constituted 42.49% of Non-Tax Revenue of the State in that year.

(b) to (d): No Sir, as per data provided by the Finance Department of the State Government of Bihar, the total outstanding debt as on 31.03.2023 for the State of Bihar is Rs. 2,93,307.16 crore. Out of this, the outstanding central debt amounts to Rs. 34,747.63 crore. This is 11.85% of the total outstanding debt as on 31.03.2023.

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