

# Cash course key to GST rate rejig

**A STAFF REPORTER**

**Calcutta:** The GST Council will consider tweaking rates further only after revenues stabilise.

GST collection has remained volatile in the first few months since its implementation in July, with the GST Council frequently making changes, including tax rates.

Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday said that as and when the revenue collection stabilised, there would be more rationalisation of the GST rates.

“Let the revenues stabilise first and then expect more rationalisation of GST rates. More than 90 per cent of the issues regarding tax rates have been already resolved after the council brought down the rate slabs of 178 items,” Modi said while addressing a session on the GST organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce.

He suggested the GST Council would look into the possibility of merging the 12



**PLAYING SAFE:** Modi

per cent and the 18 per cent slabs.

Modi, who is also the Bihar finance minister and a member of the GST Council, suggested there were about 50 items in the 28-per-cent-tax-rate bracket and the council would try to further reduce the number of items from the highest rate.

He said he would propose at the next meeting of the council that price tags displayed on products or items should be inclusive of the GST rates. “It is the mindset of the consumer. They do not get

hurt to pay as per price tags but any additional amount over and above price tags actually hurts them psychologically. Like in Big Bazaar or Spencer’s or any other retail-chains do, all price tags should be inclusive of the GST,” the Bihar deputy chief minister said.

Modi said he would ensure the online system of the submission of the GST return became user friendly and hassle free.

“We meet every twenty days with Infosys who is handling the GST networking. It is the backbone of GST and we hope that the system will gradually become more user friendly, simplified and interactive.

“I have suggested that there should be a preview of the pages prior to the submission of GST returns and facilities like edit options and more pop-ups before final submission,” Modi said. He is heading the group of ministers formed to monitor the technology related issues of the GST.