

mining operations or simultaneously with coal mining operations to optimally develop and conserve CBM.

16. All statutory requirements relating to Environment, Safety, etc. shall be complied with by the Lessee.

Withdrawal of Pre-2005 bank notes

*342. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently announced to withdraw from circulation all currency notes printed prior to 2005;
- (b) if so, what is the objective of such a move;
- (c) whether the black money in circulation which is worth several crores would be under check by such a move; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has announced the decision to withdraw from circulation all currency notes printed prior to 2005. It is a standard international practice to withdraw old series of bank notes from time to time. The objective of withdrawal of bank notes printed prior to 2005 is to remove them from the market as they have fewer security features compared to bank notes printed after 2005. It is expected that this will prevent counterfeiting of bank notes.

Shortage of power supply in Tamil Nadu

*343. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the continued poor performance by Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), resulting in a shortfall of nearly 2500 MW of power supply in Tamil Nadu in the recent months since November, 2013;
- (b) whether the Central Government has conducted any probe to ascertain if there was a "concerted conspiracy" to plunge the State into darkness;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the effective measures taken by the Central Government to maximize power generation and restore full power supply to Tamil Nadu?