

- (iv) Renovation and Modernization, Life Extension and Up-rating of various existing power projects operating at low PLF.

(d) and (e) Based on the process of review and assessment of power plants which operate below the national average Plant Load Factor, such power generating plants are considered for R&M work and Life Extension and Operating from time to time.

#### **Vacancies in National Grid Operator**

2760. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the national grid operator continues to be grossly understaffed;
- (b) whether lack of adequate and timely interventions to curb over-drawing by northern region States was cited as one of the reasons for the consecutive grid failures that took place on 30 and 31 July, 2012; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government is taking to fill up the vacancies in the national grid operator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present, there is no shortage of manpower for important Grid Operation function being done by the National Grid Operator, *i.e.* Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO). POSOCO has adequate manpower at each Regional Load Despatch Centre (RLDC) and National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC). However, additional manpower is required in other functions of POSOCO like Market Operation, Regulatory and Legal functions.

(b) No, Sir. The Enquiry Committee constituted by the Ministry of Power after the grid disturbances on 30th and 31st July, 2012 has found that disturbances were due to a combination of factors, *inter-alia*, weak inter-regional corridors due to multiple outages, high loading on some inter-regional links due to over-drawal by Northern Region (NR) Utilities and under-drawal by WR Utilities, inadequate protection system and inadequate response by State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) to the instructions of RLDCs, etc.

(c) Suitable action has already been taken to fill up vacancies in the National Grid Operator, *i.e.* POSOCO.