

Title: Need to revive Prime Minister's Grant Project and release adequate funds to the 'Mumbai Repair and Reconstruction Board'.- Laid.

SHRI MILIND DEORA (MUMBAI-SOUTH) : Various Indian cities in our country face growing housing problems. In Mumbai, a large number of the population lives in old and dilapidated buildings and slums. Throughout the year, and especially during the monsoons, old buildings collapse resulting in the death of several residents. The Maharashtra Government had set up the Mumbai Repair & Reconstruction Board with the responsibility of repairing and reconstructing these old buildings.

Unfortunately, due to paucity of funds, the Board is unable to discharge its responsibilities effectively. Realising this, in December 1985, our then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi created the Prime Minister's Grant Project. The Union Government granted Rs.100 crores towards an urban renewal programme in Mumbai city, as a result of which many of the old buildings were reconstructed and repaired.

There is an urgent need to revive the PMGP and additional funds need to be released to the Board. Considering the fact that Mumbai contributes over Rs.50,000 crores annually to the national exchequer, a sum of Rs. 250 crores per annum must be allocated towards the restoration of these buildings.