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Title: Need to provide amenities to refugees of post-partition settled in colonies in Mumbai South-Central Constituency.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, thank you for allowing me to raise an important issue of my constituency, Mumbai South Central. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Urban Development regarding re-development of industrial structures in Mumbai. My constituency consists of a large number of colonies meant for refugees. These refugees are putting up in very old refugee centres and barracks. These barracks and colonies are in dilapidated condition. The residents of this area are descendants of Punjabis and Sindhis who repatriated to Mumbai after the partition of 1947. Now they have large families and are facing severe space crunch to accommodate even their own family members. The basic civic amenities have not been provided properly to these colonies. These refugee camps need re-development like other residential colonies with the Central aid.

Mumbai being a mega city has its own sets of problems in terms of dwellings for its residents. There are huge pockets of slums in many parts of Mumbai which need to be redeveloped under the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana. In addition to slums, a big housing colony called BDD Chawl is situated in Naigao. This Chawl was originally constructed as a jail during the pre-Independence time. Now, it is a colony of police quarters. This colony also needs to be redeveloped in all respects and should be provided all basic amenities.

I would request the hon. Minister of Urban Development to look into these pending issues and give clearance for redevelopment of these areas on priority basis like many other under-developed colonies of Mumbai. Thank you.