

- (iii) **Need to draw up a comprehensive scheme of reconstruction of the old dilapidated houses in Bombay.**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : The problem of house collapses in Bombay has assumed alarming proportion. There are in all 19,642 old buildings in the city of Bombay, out of which 16,500 were constructed before September 1940. Under the Bombay Housing and Area Development Act, the Government of Maharashtra has taken up responsibility of carrying out structural repairs with the ceiling limit of Rs. 300/- per square metre and of reconstruction in case structural repairs are not economical. Repair cess is levied on the tenants and landlords of these old buildings. The amount of annual cess collected works out to Rs. 6/- crores. The statutory contribution of the State Government and Bombay Municipal Corporation is Rs. 3.60 crores each per annum. In addition, the State Government gives ad-hoc grant of Rs. 2/- crores every year. However, the work is beyond the financial resources of the State Government. I, therefore, urge upon the Housing Department of Urban Development Ministry of the Central Government to come forward to help the State Government in drawing up a comprehensive scheme of reconstruction of these old dilapidated houses in Bombay.

- (iv) **Need for immediate revision of pay scales and provision of promotional avenues of the University and College teachers in the country**

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : There is a great resentment and frustration among University and college teachers in the country in general and Delhi, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana in particular and many Teachers' Unions are planning to go on strike. Many of the teachers are sore over the fact that they are stagnating in the pay scales which have not been revised over a decade now in spite of the fact that the University Grants Commission had promised a revision after every ten years since these

scales were introduced in 1972-73. The Mehrotra Committee set up for the revision of pay-scales has still not submitted its report. Many teachers are bitter over the denial of promotional avenues to them. I request the Minister of Human Resources Development to ensure an immediate revision of the pay-scales and the provisions of promotional avenues so as to end the frustration and resentment among them and offset the sharp increase in the cost of living on account of steep rise in prices and enhance their status in society.

- (v) **Need to expedite the work of auto signalling and introduce EMU trains between Panskura and Kharagpur stations of S.E. Railway**

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : No new EMU train has been introduced for commuters at any of the stations between Panskura and Kharagpur in the Kharagpur division of SE Railway (a suburban section), i.e. Khirai Halt, Haur, Radhamohanpur, Balichak, Shyamchak, Madpur and Jakpur. during the last two years.

Though a large number of commuters have to go and come back both in the direction of Howrah and Kharagpur, the number of trains available at these stations are far less than those available at most of the other stations in this suburban section.

Though I have been taking up this question with the S.E. Railway authorities constantly, they are pleading inability. The reason advanced is that the automatic signalling system has first to be completed. After a lot of persuasion, the work on the signalling system has just started. But, I understand that the Cables are in short supply.

There is an understandable dissatisfaction among the commuters on the issue which has sometime been expressed even in spontaneous rail-road blockade.

Among these stations, Balichak is an important place as it has wide road