Mumba i ha s los t

score s o f live s unde r

crumblin g building s

ove r th e las t fe w year s

The six-
storeyed
building in
Borivli(W)
collapsed on
18 July 2007,
killing 29
people and injuring several others. A
probe revealed the building was not
on the list of dangerous structures
but one of the families staying there
had made internal alterations that
weakened the building.

RASSIWALA BUILDING,

DHOBI TALAO
Six people were killed and nine
others injured when this building, on
Second Marine Street, Dhobi Talao,
collapsed on 29 August 2005. It was
among the 80 that figured in the
Mhada's list of dangerous buildings
in the island city/Tenants, however,
had refused to move out even
though the building was served a
notice. The loss of lives could have
been averted if residents had
listened to requests, officials said.

PUSKPANJALI,KHAR
Six residents of the 48-year-old
three-storeyed building in Khar died
when it caved in on 25 June 2005.
The building was served a notice in
2002 for carrying out structural
changes without approval. But,
before the BMC machinery could
mow down the illegal changes, joint
owners Ram Gupta and Rarnesh
Gupta sought a court Injunction and
successfully dodged the civic
hammer/They, however,failed to
dodge fate.

GOVIND TOWER, KHERWADi
Seven-storeyed Govind Towers
collapsed in August 1998, within 20
years of its construction, killing 35
and injuring 23. The building was
originally granted permission for
four floors but three floors were
added illegally. A fact-finding
committee headed by then BMC
chief K C Srivastava indicted his own
organisation, Mhada and the
collector for failing to demolish the
unlawful constructions carried out
in the building.

SADAF MANZIL, NAGPADA
Eleven people
were killed
and 24 others
hurt when a
century-old
cessed
building in
Nagpada collapsed on 23 August
2005. The Mhada repaired the
building, opposite J J Hospital, in
2002 and - even three days before
the crash - Mhada engineers
visited it and declared it safe.

POONAM CHAMBERS,WORLI
Five people were killed and 28
others injured when a section of the
seven-storeyed building collapsed
during a monsoon 11 years back. A
probe revealed that a ground-floor
occupant had removed a load-
bearing column, weakening the
building structurally and leading to
the crash on 17 September 1997.
BMC engineers say internal
alterations, illegally carried out, are
often to blame for weakened
buildings and subsequent tragedies.

LAXMl CHHAYA BORIVLI

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