

# BMC: Useless to invest in public transport

**Kishore Rathod**

Is the packed suburban train or the overflowing BEST bus too much to bear for your daily grind? Buying your own car may well be the solution to your — and the city's — commuting woes, feels Mumbai's municipal commissioner Subodh Kumar.

Speaking on the responsibility of civic bodies towards citizens during a session at DNA's seminar on housing and redevelopment, the civic chief said: "There's little sense in spending hundreds of crores on public transportation, when a majority of the population resorts to private transport." He added that unless there is last lap connectivity and the entire commute is comfortable, public transportation will continue to be ineffective in curbing the rising number of

## TALKING SENSE?

**The civic chief** says unless there is last lap connectivity and the commute is comfortable, public transportation will continue to be ineffective in curbing rising number of cars

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cars. This statement assumes significance given that 200 new cars, and an equal number of two-wheelers, hit the city's roads every day.

In a veiled potshot at the MMRDA, Kumar said that no amount of monorails and metro rails will be successful in reducing the congestion on Mumbai's roads and the planners should factor in this reality when they are drawing up the blueprint for the

future.

Citing the example of London's underground metro system used by only 20% of the city's commuters, Kumar said: "When 80% of your citizens don't travel in your expensive public transport system, there's a reason to worry." He asked the planners to adopt a holistic approach to urban transportation and encourage private transport in a sustainable manner.