retrofitting and can only remember 'angles' as distinctive features of these houses that were put in place to strengthen the connection between the walls and the roof. In some of these houses, these angles have already been removed in order to increase the height of the roof. In others, extensions to these houses do not incorporate any earthquake-proof features (Figure 15).

As mentioned before, the traditional construction process in Marathwada was carried out by craftsmen who had been building in stone and wood for generations. However, after the earthquake, traditional construction systems were condemned as unsafe and reconstruction policies further encouraged the use of new materials and construction techniques. As a result, traditional craftsmen, who were already in low demand prior to the earthquake, lost their livelihoods and moved to other jobs. Construction work is now undertaken by other socioeconomic groups, who have acquired limited knowledge in brick and reinforced cement constructions through short apprenticeships. However, this quickly-acquired knowledge has resulted in very poor quality constructions. In fact, one of the long-term impacts of this reconstruction policy has been that traditional building craftsmen have almost disappeared from the region, and local constructions in stone and wood have been replaced by highly vulnerable new constructions. Thus reconstruction further accelerated the process of the marginalization of traditional craftsmen.

In some instances, where traditional houses are still intact, people do not feel safe living in them, and would prefer to move to tin sheds. Even so, many years after the earthquake, the perception against the

Figure 15. The iron angles used for retrofitting traditional houses have been removed to increase the ceiling height. Moreover, the traditional roof, made of wooden beams and rafters, is being replaced by tin sheets.