

in this sub-section, including the work on the Satara bypass, is Rs. 79.20 lakhs.

(b) The work is targetted to be completed by the end of March 1975.

Work on Bridge and by Pass on Poona-Bangalore National Highway

4079. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOT-KHINDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of the bridge and the bypass outside Kolhapur city on Poona-Bangalore National Highway is likely to be completed; and

(b) the estimated expenditure of both the works separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA):

(a) The construction of the bypass outside Kolhapur city (length 6.4 kms.) forms part of the work of improvement to the sub section No. XV from Km 605 to Km 622 of National Highway No. 4. Out of the three bridges falling in this sub section, work on one bridge has already been completed and work on the remaining two bridges, one of which is a Railway overbridge, are targetted to be completed by March 1974. The road works are targetted to be completed by March 1975.

(b) The estimated cost of road works in this sub section is Rs. 70.78 lakhs and that of bridge works is Rs. 9.31 lakhs.

Closure of National Highway Wing in Maharashtra due to Reduction of Funds for 1973-74

4080. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOT-KHINDE:

SHRI S. L. PEJE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Divisions, Sub-Divisions and two Circles, in the

National Highway Wing of the State Government of Maharashtra are being closed;

(b) whether those establishments are being closed because of the reduced allocation of funds;

(c) whether the demand of the State Government for funds during the year 1973-74 for these works has been curtailed recently;

(d) whether it has urged by the State Government that the reduction of allocation will give a setback to the continuing works of improving the National Highways; and

(e) if so, whether the Government would make available to the State Government the full amount of allocation as originally contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA):

(a) to (e). In view of the prevailing financial stringency in the country and need to affect ut-most economy in Government expenditure at all levels to the maximum extent, the allocation for Central Sector Road Schemes had also to be reduced. This has necessitated corresponding reduction of the allocation of funds to States including Maharashtra for various road schemes including construction and development of National Highways. It is learnt from one of the communications received from the Government of Maharashtra that they proposed to close down some Divisions, Sub-Divisions and Circles.

2. The Government of Maharashtra has represented against the reduced allocation. The Maharashtra Government along with other State Governments had recently been requested to undertake an immediate review of their requirements so as to limit their demand for necessary and essential works only. A final decision in the matter will depend upon the overall resources position at the time of finalising revised budget estimate for 1973-74.