

Title: Need to take steps for all-round development of 'Panhala' in Kolhapur.

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, "Panhala" is a historical fort in Kolhapur district covering the whole plateau of the hill. It also has a status of hill station due to its height. It is most popular tourist attraction in Kolhapur district and has a population of about 10,000 with a floating population of over 5 lakh per year. In order to cause fast development, "Panhala" is also named as a taluka of the district and has necessary State Government establishments on the plateau. A T.V. station with its tower and a microwave tower serving a little population is only available on the plateau.

According to the rules, Archaeological Department does not permit any construction within 300 metres from the boundary wall of this historical town and that is exactly the obstacle in the development of "Panhala". The size of Panhala is such that there is hardly any place falling outside the limit of 300 metres from the boundary wall. Kolhapur apart from its prominent historical importance is in the State of Maharashtra one of the talukas, which is now progressing, in industrial sector. It has a rich artistic and cultural heritage. So, modern telecommunication facility for this town is the need of the hour so as to serve the population of Panhala.

For further growth of the town, modern facilities and amenities are necessary. I may mention that "Panhala" was not there in the list of Archaeological Survey originally. It is much afterwards that this place was included. Further the recommendations made by the Kamle Committee were towards paving a way for all-round development of "Panhala".

I request the Government to lift the ban of 300 metres so that the requisite land is available for creation of infrastructure for all-round development of Panhala.