

**Title:** Need to accord approval and to provide sufficient funds for constructing parallel lanes to National Highway No.4 in Khambatki Ghat in Maharashtra.-Laid

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE (SATARA): The condition of the existing two lanes stretch on National Highway No.4 between Km. 773/0 to 781/0 in Khambatki Ghat is very bad. The traffic on this stretch has increased manifold i.e. about 150 per cent since 1994. The Maharashtra Government has approached the Ministry of Surface Transport for additional double lanes in the Ghat Section in 1994 and the same was approved by Ministry of Surface Transport vide No.RW/NH-12012/641/94W(MAH) dated 14.1.94. Sir, due to heavy traffic on this stretch, there is a traffic jam almost daily for about six to eight hours. Due to setting up of many industries in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara, the people visiting these places frequently have to go through this stretch.

In addition, Mahabaleshwar, a hill station is also visited by tourists especially from Gujarat, Bombay and Pune. The people face difficulties due to frequent traffic jams. Some multi-nationals are planning to set up industries in Satara, Kolhapur districts but they are hesitant due to blockade of traffic.

In view of these circumstances, the State Government has submitted a proposal to Ministry of Surface Transport to construct additional two lane road with a tunnel including strengthening existing two lane stretch in Khambatki Ghat between km. 773/0 to 781/0 of National Highway No. 4. The Government of India have neither approved the project nor provided any funds to the State Government for this purpose.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Surface Transport to look into the matter and approve the aforesaid proposal of the State Government of Maharashtra and also provide necessary funds for this purpose at the earliest.