

## PREFACE

Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj was one of the progressive rulers of Modern India, who ruled Kolhapur state from 1884 to 1922. Shahu Chhatrapati was a myriad sided the grand figure and august personality. He was a ruler who made revolutionary social changes even at the risk of his crown and life. In building vast dams and launching ambitious schemes in the fields of agricultural and co-operative societies, he proved to be the father of the green revolution in India.

Some scholars have worked on Shahu's social, educational and economic policy in details but the progress of Public Works Department under Shahu have not studied properly yet. Fortunately during Shahu's period, number of public buildings railway line were constructed. Moreover Radhanagari Dam which proved to be boon on Kolhapur people was undertaken by Shahu himself. Palace theatre, and Khasbag Wrestling Akhada, which is even today a unique feature of Kolhapur was built by Shahu Chhatrapati himself establishment of Shahupuri and Jaysingpur settlement were undertaken again roads, bridges, Palace were built during this period and Kolhapur state spent major amount on this Department.

Mr. R. J. Shannon, D. A. Vichare, S. S. Gupte, were the Kolhapur state Executive Engineer of this period who supervised the Public Works Department and rendered great service to the

development of this Department. The development of Public Works Department during Shahu's Period (1884-1922) was a neglected factor by earlier researchers.

Therefore a humble attempt has been made to study the progress of this P.W.D. under Shahu by using original sources, such as Kolhapur State Administrative Reports (1884-1922), Karveer Gazetteers, Huzur Tharav Books, P.W.D. correspondence etc. and secondary sources related to this topic.

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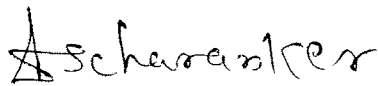
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