Chapter-VI

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

This dissertation ‘Democratic Decentralisation and the Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in Tripura’ has been a modest attempt to understand the evolution of urban local self-government in India and in Tripura, to evaluate socio-economic profile of the sitting councillors and their level of political awareness, to take into account the finance of urban local bodies and implementation of the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. To this end, the findings of the study have been presented in the light of the objectives and research questions. Chapter-wise presentation of the summary of the content and findings has been made here.

I

Chapter I has given a detailed outline of the research plan which includes the statement of the problem and the importance and relevance of the study. A conceptual framework of the study has been outlined to comprehend the key concepts such as ‘democratic decentralisation’, ‘local self-government’, ‘74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992’, ‘Tripura Municipal Act, 1994’ associated with the present study. It has also contained an analytical review of related literature, aims and objectives of the study, relevant research questions, methodology of the study, significance of the study, rationale of the study, chapter plan and the profile of the sample area.

The present study has been associated with the four urban local bodies of Tripura. Hence, an attempt has been made to present a brief profile of these four urban local bodies. Agartala Municipal Council having 35 Wards in total is located at the headquarters of the West Tripura District. As per the Census of India 2011, Agartala Municipal Council has a total population of 3, 98,338 comprising of 2, 06,801 (51.92 percent) male and 1, 91,537 (48.08 percent) female. The literacy rate of AMC is 93.88 percent which is higher than the state average literacy rate of 87.22 percent. The male literacy rate is 95.75 percent and the female literacy rate is 92.02 percent within the purview of AMC. Geographically, the total area belonging to AMC is 58.84 sq. km. Out of the total population of AMC; 1, 80,387 (45.28 percent) belong to General; 1, 06,007
(26.61 percent) belong to OBC; 88.786 (22.29 percent) belong to SC and the remaining 23,158 (5.81 percent) are ST. Again, the population dwelling within the purview of AMC is entirely divided into six religious categories, such as Hindus are 3, 75,838 (94.35 percent), Muslims are 20,681 (5.19 percent), Jains are 655 (.16 percent), Buddhists are 566 (.14 percent), Christians are 578 (.15 percent) and Sikhs are only 20 (.01 percent); but out of these, two major sects are Hindus and Muslims only (Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5).¹

Kailasahar NP having 15 Wards in total is located at the headquarters of the North Tripura District. As per the Census of India 2011, the Kailasahar NP has a total population of 24,049. The total population comprises of 11,958 (49.72 percent) male population and 12,091 (50.28 percent) female population. The literacy rate of Kailasahar NP is 94.00 percent which is higher than the state average literacy rate of 87.22 percent. The male literacy rate is 95.00 percent and the female literacy rate is 93.00 percent within the purview of Kailasahar NP. Geographically, the total territory of Kailasahar NP is 6.19 sq.km. Out of the total population within the territorial area of Kailasahar NP; 11,310 (47.03 per cent) are of General category, 6,247 (25.97 percent) are OBCs, 5,480 (22.78 per cent) are Schedule Castes and the total number of Schedule Tribe population is 1,012 (4.21 percent). The population dwelling within the purview of Kailasahar NP is entirely divided into four religious sects, such as Hindus, Muslims, Jains and Buddhists. Out of them, Hindus are 22,378 (93.05 percent), Muslims are 1,584 (6.59 percent), Jains are 35 (0.15 percent) and Buddhists are 52 (0.21 percent) (Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5).²

Udaipur NP having 19 Wards in total is located at the headquarters of the Tripura South District which is located 50 k.m. away from Agartala, the State capital of Tripura. As per the Census of India 2011, the NP has a total population of 33,708 comprising 17,404 (51.63 percent) are male and 16,304 (48.37 percent) are female. The literacy rate of Udaipur NP is 100 percent whereas the state average literacy rate is 87.22 percent. Udaipur NP has an area of 6.10 sq. km. Out of the total population within the territorial area of Udaipur NP, 22,972 (68.15 percent) are General, 4,608 (13.67 percent) are OBC, 5,600 (16.61 percent) are Schedule Caste and the total number of Schedule Tribes population is 528 (1.57 percent). The population dwelling within the purview of
Kailasahar NP is entirely divided into two religious categories only, such as Hindus and Muslims. Out of them, Hindus are 30,729 (91.16 percent) and Muslims are 2,979 (8.84 percent) (Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5).³

Ambassa NP having 19 Wards in total is located at the headquarters of the Dhalai Tripura District and it is located only 80 km. remote from the state capital. As per the Census of India 2011, the Ambassa NP has a total population of 16,978 comprising 8,391 (49.42 percent) are male and 8,587 (50.58 percent) are female. The literacy rate of Ambassa NP is 88.40 percent which is marginally higher than the state average literacy rate of 87.22 percent. The male literacy rate is 93.20 percent and the female literacy rate is 83.30 percent. Geographically, Ambassa NP has an area of 14.77 sq.km. Out of the total population dwelling within the territorial area of Ambassa NP; 5,510 (32.45 percent) are General, 5,597 (32.97 percent) are OBC, 3,772 (22.22 percent) are Schedule Caste and the total number of Schedule Tribes population is 2,099 (12.36 percent). The population dwelling within the jurisdiction of Ambassa NP is entirely divided into two religious sects, such as Hindus and Christians. Out of them, Hindus are 16,294 (95.97 percent) and Christians are 684 (4.03 percent) (Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5).⁴

II

The second chapter holds a brief discussion on the origin and evolution of municipal government in India. For the convenience of a systematic study as to the origin and evolution of municipal government, this chapter has been divided into four Sections. Of these, Section I deals with the institutions of municipal government in Ancient and Medieval India as well. Section II elucidates the stages in the evolution of municipal government during British rule. Section III has taken an endeavour to focus on the development of municipal government in post-independence India. Finally, Section IV deals with the evolution of municipal government in Tripura in particular. Section I postulates that the idea of municipal government is not a new phenomenon in Indian social system as it had been in existence in ancient India also. There had been a highly organised system of urban local government even in the Vedic period in India. There was an organised urban life in the Indus Valley Civilisation wherein some of the oldest planned cities of the world existed. The Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Upanishads and
the Jataka stories gave a clear indication as to the existence of urban government in Ancient India. In Ancient India there were the institutions of urban local government like ‘Parishad’, ‘Municipal Board’ and ‘Nagaraka’ to look after city administration. During the Mughal rule there was an officer called ‘Kotwal’ who had been vested with the responsibilities of performing many municipal functions. In other words, he was a generalist administrator entrusted with the responsibility of many civil and police functions. Section II has revealed the beginning of a new vista when several legislations were enacted during the British period to set up and to make the institutions of urban local government strong and active. It was in 1687 that a municipal corporation was set up for the first time in Madras in India. During British period Lord Mayo’s Resolution of 1870 gave a new impetus to the improvement of urban local government in India. However, the Lord Ripon’s Resolution of 1882 was the first sincere effort to reinvigorate the concept of urban local self-government during the British period. Later on, ‘The Government of India Act, 1919’ inaugurated an era of new interest and activity in the area of urban local self-government. Section III deals with the issues related to the improvement of urban local self-government in post-independence India. The Constitution of India that has come into force on the 26th January of 1950, under the Entry 5 of the List II and Entry 20 of the List III of the 7th Schedule has given a reference to urban local self-government. Several attempts have been undertaken and several committees or commissions have been formed with an eye to strengthening the institutions of urban local self-government since the inception of the Indian Constitution. However, it is the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 which marked a new vista in the history of the evolution of urban local self government in India. The Act has given the constitutional status to the urban local government in India. In Section IV, it has been revealed that the system of municipal government was in existence in Tripura from time immemorial. In 1871 the first Municipal Council was established at Agartala. Afterwards, many a effort has been made for the improvement of urban local self-government in Tripura and in this connection, the most important one is ‘The Tripura Municipal Act, 1994’ and it has been amended six times so far. At present, there are twenty urban local bodies in Tripura; out of these, one Municipal Corporation, thirteen Municipal Councils and six Nagar Panchayats.
Chapter VI

Concluding Observations ....

III

Chapter III makes an empirical analysis of the socio-economic profile of the sitting municipal councillors and their level of political awareness. For the convenience of presentation, this chapter has been divided into two Sections. Section I deals with the socio-economic profile of the sitting councillors and Section II deals with the level of political awareness of the respondents. The study of the Chapter III has been carried out on the basis of the following research question-

➢ Do the socio-economic factors of the Respondents determine their level of political awareness?

Before delving deep into the actual research question, an attempt has been made to study the socio-economic profile of the respondents in order to understand its impact on the level of political awareness of the respondents. It has been revealed from the analysis of the data that out of 80 respondents, the presence of elderly people (aged 51 and above) was found to be 55 percent, while 6.25 percent is found belonging to the age group of ‘18-30’, 7.50 percent belonging to the age group of ‘31-40’ and the remaining 31.25 percent belonging to the age group of ‘41-50’ (Table: 3.5). As for the educational qualifications of the councillors are concerned, it has been revealed that 43.75 percent of respondents have been found to be educated up to ‘graduation and above’ and the remaining 43.75 percent belongs to ‘below madhyamik’, ‘madhyamik’ and ‘higher secondary’ at the rate of 15.00 percent, 30.00 percent and 11.25 percent respectively. In this context, it has been revealed that now-a-days educated people are taking keen interest in urban politics (Table 3.10).

As far as the caste composition of the respondents is concerned, a majority of 58.75 percent respondents have been found to belong to General category, while the remaining 41.25 percent belongs to SC, ST and OBC at the rate of 23.75 percent, 5.00 percent and 12.50 percent respectively (Table 3.11). Thus it has been found that though the majority of the respondents are belonging to the higher caste, yet people belonging to SCs and STs also are taking part in urban politics and it has become possible due to the contribution of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 which has opened a new door to the marginalized sections of society to have access to the urban local politics through the policy of reservation.
As far as question of gender consideration of the respondents concerned, it has been revealed from the study that 47.50 percent has been found to belong to male and the remaining 52.50 percent belong to female (Table 3.16). Thus now-a-days, women are not born to be confined to the household activities only, rather, they are participating in the decision-making bodies at the urban level and playing important role in society as social and political leaders.

As for the income of the respondents, it has been found that majority of the respondents belong to the income group of ‘Up to 5,000/-’ (56.25 percent) per month, and while the remaining 43.75 percent respondents belong to the income groups such as, ‘5,001-10,000’, ‘10,001-15,000’, ‘15,001-20,000’ and ‘20,001 and above’ at the rate of 16.25 percent, 15.00 percent, 5.00 percent and 7.50 percent respectively (Table 3.21). Regarding the occupation of the respondents, it has been found that people having different occupations namely- ‘agricultural’, ‘business’, ‘wage earner’, ‘housewife’, ‘pensioner’ and ‘others (which includes mostly social workers and teachers)’ are found taking part in urban politics (Table 3.26). So far as the religious status of the respondents is concerned, the respondents are divided into three major religious groups, namely- Hinduism, Islam and Christianity at the rate of 93.75 percent, 3.75 percent and 2.5 percent respectively. Thus it has been found that ULBs are dominated by the belonging to Hinduism (Table 3.27).

As to the monthly family income of the respondents, it has been found that the respondents are divided into five groups, namely- ‘Up to 5,000’, ‘5,001-10,000’, ‘10,001-15,000’, ‘15,001-20,000’ and ‘20,001 & above’ at the rate of 12.50 percent, 22.50 percent, 23.75 percent, 15.00 percent and 26.25 percent respectively. It has been found that there is a significant difference among the respondents in terms of their monthly family income. It has also been revealed that people belonging to lower income group also participate in political affairs of the urban administration (Table 3.32).

So far as the association of the respondents with the socio-political wings is concerned, it has been found that 48.75 percent is associated with the political wing, 16.25 percent belong to social wing only and the remaining 35.00 percent is associated with both types of wings (Table 3.37). As regards the marital status of the councillors is concerned, out of the 80 respondents, 93.75 percent is found married, 3.75 percent has
been found to belong to widow or widower and only 2.50 percent has been found to belong to unmarried (Table 3.38)\textsuperscript{14}.

In response to the research question, “Do the socio-economic factors of the councillors determine their level of political awareness?”, it has been found that the level of awareness of the respondent is, to a great extent, determined by the factors such as ‘age’, ‘education’, ‘gender’, ‘income’, ‘occupation’ and ‘association with the socio-political wings’. It has been revealed that the level of awareness of the respondents belonging to the age group of ‘18-30’ and ‘35 & above’ is higher than those of the respondents belonging to the age group of ‘31-40’ and ‘41-50’. Again, it has been found that the respondents belonging to the age group of ‘18-30’ have higher level of awareness in comparison with the other age groups. Thus, it is found that the young respondents are more acquainted with the issues related to the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act (Table: 3.39)\textsuperscript{15}.

From the analysis of the data, it has been revealed that education plays a very dominant role in determining the level of awareness of the respondent, because if the level of education of the respondents is high, then their level of awareness is also high. It has been found that the respondents having educational qualification ‘Graduation and above’ is more aware than the respondents having educational qualification ‘H.S. (+2 Stages)’, ‘Madhyamik’ and ‘Below Madhyamik’ respectively. Similarly, the level of awareness of the respondents having educational qualification ‘H.S. (+2 Stages)’ is more than that of the respondents having educational qualification ‘Madhyamik’ and ‘Below Madhyamik’ respectively. Again, the respondents having educational qualification ‘Below Madhyamik’ are not so aware as the respondents having educational qualification ‘Madhyamik’ (Table: 3.40)\textsuperscript{16}.

From the study, it has been found that the number of female respondents constituting 52.50 percent is more than that of their male counterparts constitute 47.50 percent. Although their participation is higher than male, yet their level of awareness has been found to be less than that of their male counterpart. It has been found from the study that the level of awareness of the male respondents has been ranging from 92.11 percent
to 65.79 percent; whereas the level of awareness of the female respondents has been ranging from 76.19 percent to 52.38 percent (Table: 3.41)\textsuperscript{17}.

From the study, it has been revealed that the level of income of the respondents has not been proved to be an important factor in determining their level of awareness. It is found that the respondents belonging to the monthly income group of ‘10,001-15,000’ have higher level of awareness as compared to the respondents having other income groups. There is no significant difference between the respondents belonging to the monthly income groups of ‘15,001-20,000’ and ’20,001 and above’ in terms of their level of awareness. As to the level of awareness of the respondents having monthly income of ‘Up to 5,000’ and ‘5,001-10,000’ has been found quite satisfactory (Table: 3.42)\textsuperscript{18}.

From the study, it has been found that urban local bodies in Tripura are represented by the people having different occupations. It has been found that the respondents belonging to ‘Pensioners’ and ‘Other’ categories are more aware than the respondents having different other occupations. It has been found that the level of awareness of the ‘agriculturalists’ is higher than those of ‘businessmen’. Out of the total 42 female respondents, 28 (66.67 percent) respondents are ‘housewife’. From the study, it has been found that though the representation of the respondents belonging to ‘housewife’ is more than 50.00 percent, but their level of awareness is less than 50.00 percent in all cases(Table:3.43)\textsuperscript{19}.

From the study, it has been found that the respondents who are associated with both the types of wings such as social wings and political wings having high level of awareness as compared to the respondents who are associated with either of social wing or political wing only. Again, it has been revealed that the respondents associated with the political wing are more aware than those of associated with the social wing (Table: 3.40).\textsuperscript{20}

IV

Chapter IV has given an overview as to the finance of the Urban Local bodies. For the convenience of the study, this chapter has been divided into two sections. Out of the two sections, **Section I** deals with grants to the urban local self-governing institutions in
Tripura, and Section II dwells upon the own revenue income of the urban local self-governing institutions. The study of the Chapter IV was carried out on the basis of the following research question:

➢ How do local resources stand in comparison with the government grants?

In response to the research question: "How do local resources stand in comparison with the government grants?", it has been found that the sources of income of urban local bodies are of two types, namely government grants and own revenue income. Regarding these two sources, urban local bodies are mainly dependent on the government grants for carrying out their functions, because their own revenue income is not sufficient for meeting their needs and requirements. It has been revealed that during the financial year 2000-2001 to 2011-2012, the amount of grants received by AMC from the State Government and from the Government of India is Rs. 27040.25 lakhs, that is, on an average it is Rs. 2253.35 lakhs; whereas the revenue income of AMC from the financial year 2000-2001 to 2011-2012 is Rs. 7765.58 lakhs only, that is, on an average the revenue income of AMC is Rs. 647.13 Lakh. Thus, it has been found that on an average the amount of government grants received by AMC is more than three times vis-à-vis its own revenue income from the financial year 2000-2001 to 2011-2012 (Tables: 4.2 and 4.3)\textsuperscript{21}.

A similar trend has been found in all Nagar Panchayats also. Regarding Udaipur NP, the amount of government grants received by it from the financial year 2000-2001 to 2011-2012 is Rs. 2169.24 lakhs, that is, on an average it is Rs. 180.77 lakhs; whereas the own revenue income of Udaipur NP in the financial years 2000-2001 to 2011-2012 are Rs. 596.92 lakhs and on an average it is Rs. 49.74 lakhs. Thus, it has been found that the revenue income of Udaipur NP on an average is less than government grants by Rs. 131.03 lakhs per year (Tables: 4.4 and 4.5)\textsuperscript{22}.

Regarding the Kailasahar NP, it has been found that the amount received by Kailasahar NP in the forms of grants from the financial years 2000-2001 to 2011-2012 are Rs.2473.50 lakhs, whereas the revenue income of Kailasahar NP from the financial years 2000-2001 to 2011-2012 is Rs. 216.09 lakhs. Thus, it has been revealed that the
amount of grants received by Udaipur NP is as nearly as 12 times more than that of its revenue income on an average (Tables: 4.6 and 4.7)\textsuperscript{23}.

The amount of grants provided to Ambassa NP from the financial years 2009-2010 to 2011-2012 is Rs. 1081.53 lakhs; whereas the amount of the own revenue income of Ambassa NP from the financial years 2009-2010 to 2011-2012 is Rs. 40.19 lakhs only. Thus, it has been revealed that the grants received by Ambassa NP is more than 26 times as compared to its own revenue income (Tables: 4.8 and 4.9)\textsuperscript{24}.

From the analysis of the data, it has been found that the own revenue income of the ULBs is too poor to meet their needs, requirments and expectations. Again, their own revenue income is not always consistent, it is a fluctuating one. Besides, the growth in revenue of the ULBS is also not very significant except few cases. As a result, these bodies are dependent on government grants to a great extent for meeting their needs and their dependence on government grants has been increasing by degrees. Although the excessive dependence on the government Grants has made the Urban Local Bodies solvent to some extent, but at the same time it has emasculated their independence to a large extent.

V

**Chapter V** has dwelt upon the implementation of the provisions of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 in the urban areas of Tripura. This chapter has been divided into many sections for the convenience of the study. The study of the Chapter V has been carried out on the basis of the following research questions-

- Have the provisions of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act been implemented in Tripura?
- What are the problems in the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 in the urban areas of Tripura?

In response to the research question: “Have the provisions of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act been implemented in Tripura?” it has been found that the provisions of the Act have not been implemented in Tripura so far. Regarding the Constitution of Municipalities, it has been found that as per the Census of India 2011, the size of population in AMC is more than 3 lakhs; the population size of all the three
NPs also is not less than 15 lakhs respectively (Table:5.3)\textsuperscript{25}; nonetheless, Agartala Municipal Council has not been upgraded to Agartala Municipal Corporation, and the towns at Kailasahar, Ambassa and Udaipur have not been upgraded as Municipal council before 2014. Later on, in the year 2014, Agartala Municipal Council has been upgraded as Municipal Corporation and the towns at Udaipur, Kailasahar and Ambassa have been upgraded as Municipal Council.

As to the Composition of the Municipalities, it has been made in consonance with the provision of the spirit of the Act. As per the Section 12 of the TMC, 1994, the number of elected member for larger urban area should not be more than 65 and should not be less than 35, for smaller urban area the elected member should not be more than 35 and should not be less than 11, and for transitional area it varies from 7 to 11. Again, the number of nominated member for larger urban area is 5, for smaller urban area is 3 and for transitional area is 2. From the study, it has been revealed that the constitution of AMC, and Udaipur NP, Kailasahar NP and Ambassa NP has been made in consonance with the spirit and substance of the Act (Tables: 5.7 and 5.8)\textsuperscript{26}.

Article 243(S) of the Indian Constitution and the Section 13 of the TMC, 1994 read the constitution of Wards Committees. From the study, it has been revealed that Ward Committees have been constituted by the Municipalities within their own jurisdiction and the number of Ward Committees is equal to the total number of Wards of the ULBs concerned. Regarding the composition of Ward Committees, the number of nominated member of a Ward Committee should not be more than 13, but it has been found that the ward committees within the territorial area of Kailasahar NP have been constituted with more than 13 nominated members which has transgressed the maximum limit (Table 5.9)\textsuperscript{27}. Further, the functions of the Wards Committees for reducing the gap between the electorates and the elected representatives and for looking after the needs and aspirations of people living within the Wards are not up to the mark.

Article 243(T)(1) of the Indian Constitution and the Section 18(1) of the TMC, 1994 reads that seats filled by direct election shall be reserved for people belong to SCs and STs in every municipality. It has been found that in the Elections to Municipalities, 2000, the total number of seats was 37, and out of these, 7 (18.92
Chapter VI

Concluding Observations ....

percent) seats were reserved for SCs and 2 (5.41 percent) seats were reserved for STs; in the Elections to Municipalities, 2005, the total number of seats was 69, and out of these, 15 (21.74 percent) seats were reserved for SCs and the seats reserved for STs were 3 (4.35 percent); and in the Elections to Municipalities, 2010, the total number of seats were 80, and out of these, 19 (23.75 percent) seats were reserved for the people belonging to SCs and 4 (5.00 percent) seats were reserved for the people belonging to STs (Table 5.10)\textsuperscript{28}. Thus, the people belonging to SCs and STs have been given due opportunity to take part in the decision-making body of the government at the urban level through the electoral process based on the universal adult franchise and it has been possible only after the enactment of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

Article 24(T)(2) of the Indian Constitution and the Section 18(2) of the TMC, 1994 reads that ‘not less than one-third’ of the total number of seats reserved under Clause (1) of the Article 243(T) shall be reserved for women belonging to SCs and STs respectively. In 2010, the words ‘not less than one-third’ have been substituted with the words ‘not less than fifty percent’. It has been found that in the Elections to Municipalities, 2000, the total number of councillors belonging to SCs were 7 and out of them 3, (42.86 percent) councillors were women; in the Elections to Municipalities, 2005, the total number of councillors belonging to SCs was 16 and out of them, 8, (50.00 percent) councillors were women; and in the Elections to Municipalities, 2010, the total number of councillors belonging to SCs were 19 and out of them, 8, (42.11 percent) councillors were women. Similarly, in the Elections to Municipalities, 2000, 2005 and 2010 the total numbers of councillors belonging to STs were 2, 3 and 4 respectively; and all the seats, that is, 100 percent seat was occupied by women only (Table 5.11)\textsuperscript{29}.

The 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 under the Article 243T (3) of the Indian Constitution and the Section 18(3) further reads that ‘not less than one-third’ of the total number of seats to be filled up by direct election in every municipality shall be reserved for women. By ‘The Tripura Municipal (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2010’, the words ‘not less than one-third’ have been substituted with the words ‘fifty percent’. It has been found from the study that women have been given due representation in the urban bodies-the representation is more than 33 percent in the Elections to Municipalities held
in 2000 and 2005. In the Elections to Municipalities held in 2010, the representation of women is more than fifty percent (Table: 5.12)\textsuperscript{30}.

But increasing women participation does not ensure their active and effective participation as their participation is mainly determined by many factors such as, the policy of reservation of seats, caste factor, family political status, political affiliation (Table 5.13).\textsuperscript{31} It has been found that caste identity, political affiliation and the policy of reservation play dominant role in winning elections to the municipalities for women (Table: 5.14)\textsuperscript{32}.

The Article 243T(4) of the Indian Constitution and the Section 18(4) of the TMA,1994 read that seats shall be reserved in the office of the Chairpersons of the Municipalities for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. It has been found from the study that the seats in the office of the chairperson of the municipalities have been mainly occupied by the representative of people belonging to higher castes, not by the representatives of the people belonging to SCs and STs. Out of these four urban local bodies, only in Udaipur NP, the seat in the office of the chairperson was adorned with the schedule caste member since 2010, and in all other ULBs the seats in the office of Chairpersons were chaired by the people belonging to the higher caste only ( Table 5.15)\textsuperscript{33}.

Article 243(U) of the Indian Constitution and the Section 19 (1) of the TMA, 1994 provides for fixing the tenure of every municipality at five years. In Tripura, ULBs completed their full tenure of five years long since 1995(Table:5.16)\textsuperscript{34}. As per the provision of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, the elections to the urban local bodies should be held after every five years. Accordingly, in Tripura, elections to the ULBs have been conducted by the separate state election commission after every five years such as-in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015(Table:5.33)\textsuperscript{35}.

The most important feature of the Seventy-fourth Amendment in financial sphere is the mandatory constitution of Finance commission by the State Governments once in every five years. It has been found that the first Tripura State Finance Commission was constituted in 1994 and made necessary recommendations as to the financial conditions of the ULBs, and submitted its report to the State Government in 1999. The second Tripura
State Finance Commission was set up in 1999, but the Commission did not submit any report on the financial conditions of the ULBs. The third Tripura State Finance Commission was set up in 2008, though as per the provision of the Act, it should have been constituted after every Five years, but the third Tripura State Finance Commission was set up after a long gap, that is, after the nine years from the formation of second Tripura State Finance Commission and the recommendations of the third Tripura State Finance Commission are still on the paper. Again, the fourth Tripura State Finance Commission has been constituted in 2013, but it has not submitted any report with respect to the urban local bodies in Tripura so far (Table:5.31)\textsuperscript{36}. Thus, the State Government has so far been following the recommendations of the First State Finance Commission The Action taken Report on the recommendations of the First Tripura State Finance Commission has been issued by the Urban Development Department, Government of Tripura, vide G.O.No.10(F.11(5)-UDD/ 96 (Part-II), dated 27\textsuperscript{th} November, 2010 (Table 5.32)\textsuperscript{37}.

The Article 243ZD of the Indian Constitution and the Section 270 of the TMA, 1994 reads that there shall be a District Planning Committee in each district. In Tripura for the first time in 2008, four District Planning Committees have been constituted as per vide letter No. F. 25(7)/PCD/2007/11252-11351, dated, Agartala, the 25\textsuperscript{th} September of 2008. It has been found that the formation of the District Planning Committees has not been made as per the provisions the Act (Table 5.34 and table 5.35)\textsuperscript{38}. The North Tripura District Planning Committee and West Tripura District Planning Committee have prepared the consolidated District Plan for the year 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 and sent to the Planning Department of the State. But, the information regarding preparation of District Plan in respect of other districts was not available.

The Article 243 W reads with the 12\textsuperscript{th} Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the Section 84 reads with Schedule II of the Tripura Municipal Act, 1994 has entrusted 18 functional items to the urban local bodies. It has been found that although the 12\textsuperscript{th} Schedule of the Constitution of India has mentioned 18 functional items for the ULBs, but all these functions have not been transferred to the ULBs. It has been revealed from the study that out of the 18 functional items as mentioned in the 12\textsuperscript{th} Schedule of the Constitution of India, only eight functions, namely-water supply, drainage, solid waste management, sanitation, roads and bridges, street lighting, sewerage and housing for urban poor were identified as core service areas by Urban Development Department of
Tripura, but all these core service areas are not looked after by ULBs only (Table: 5.19)\textsuperscript{39}. Again in terms of these core service areas also, there is deficiency of service, as these are not materialised well and truly so far (Tables: 5.20, 5.21, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24, 5.25, 5.26 5.27)\textsuperscript{40}.

In response to the 2nd research question, “What are the problems in the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 in the urban areas of Tripura?”, it has been found that Urban Local Bodies have been entrusted with many development functions and activities under the 12\textsuperscript{th} Schedule of the Indian Constitution, but these have not been properly implemented as there exist deficiency in service. Again all the provisions of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act have not been implemented in Tripura, because the Urban Local Bodies responsible for providing the basic civic amenities, but they themselves have been facing acute problems in terms of capacity and resources. According to the respondents, the deficiency in service is mainly due to lack of finance, bureaucratic red-tapism, lack of people awareness, lack of knowledge of technology of the personnel of ULBs, party politics (Table: 5.28)\textsuperscript{41}.

In order to solve these problems, steps have been taken by the respondents from time to time. (Table:5.29)\textsuperscript{42} It has been found from that though the sitting councillors have taken steps to implement the provisions of the Act, yet the percentage of success is less than 50.00 per cent ranging from 7.50 per cent to 46.25 percent (Table:5.30)\textsuperscript{43}.

The findings of the study have shown that the provisions of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 has opened a new avenue in the history of urban local self-government throughout the country as the Act has given the constitutional status to the ULBs and has aimed at ensuring social justice and economic development. Following the provisions, substance and spirit of the Act, ‘The Tripura Municipal Act’ has been enacted in 1994. However, the provisions of the Act are partially implemented in Tripura even after more than around 20 years of the enactment of the 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act, and urban local bodies in Tripura are plagued with numerous problems which create obstacles on the way of the efficient functioning of the municipal government in Tripura. Therefore, the following suggestions are recommended for the vibrant functioning of the urban local self-government in Tripura:
Chapter VI

Concluding Observations ….

- Sincerity, efficiency and speed are lacking in the functioning of the ULBs. As a result, proper service do not reach the people dwelling in the municipal areas. That is why, elected representatives and officials should be more people oriented, more service oriented and they should be answerable to the demos for their act of omission and commission. They should not be callous to the needs, necessity and aspirations of the demos.

- The structure of municipalities is not always appropriate for facing the numerous problems and the connection between people and municipalities is not always upto the mark. Hence, Infrastructural system of the Urban Local Bodies and their networking with the common people should be improved for ensuring socio-economic development of all sects of people. Budgeting and accounting must be computerised fully and monitored centrally with facilities of networking extended to all Urban Local Bodies. These will increase efficiency in financial management of resources of Urban Local Bodies.

- For the purpose of comprehensive and planed development of the urban areas of the State, the Urban Development Department may take necessary steps for the purpose of formulation and implementation of master plan for Municipalities, by engaging consultant having sufficient experience in the field. This will cater to the requirement of development planning of all the Urban Local Bodies on long term basis in future.

- Ward Committees should take steps to reduce the gap between the electorate and the elected representatives and to ensure the increased people’s participation in the decision-making body of the government at urban level. Ward Committees should look after and fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people living within the Wards and in order to increase people’s participation in the democratic process of urban administration. District Planning Committees should be constituted at par with the provisions of the Act and their activities should be materialized.

- Transparency, accountability, responsiveness on the part of the both electorates and their representatives should be increased and they should have been aware of the basic issues relating to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and to this end, seminar, workshops, training programme, awareness programme etc. for the municipal employees and elected representatives should be arranged.
Chapter VI

Concluding Observations

- C and AG is the proper authority to examine and look after the financial positions of the Urban Local bodies. Their reports and comments carry weight. The reports of the C and AG should be brought to the notice of the common people in order to ensuring the transparency of the mode of expenditure of the urban local bodies.

- ULBs should take necessary steps with regard to generate more revenue income so that these bodies can be independent from economic point of view resulting in reducing the degree of their dependency on government grants for their functions. In order to increase their own financial resources new taxes should be introduced and the rates of existing taxes should be increased so that the ULBs can discharge their responsibilities and functions earnestly and efficiently and can establish themselves as true agents of local self-governments for urban areas throughout the country.

- One of the most important features of the 74th Constitutional Amendemnt Act, 1992 is the set up of the finance commission once in every five years. But in the State of Tripura, Finance Commission has not been constituted after every five years. Hence, it should be constituted in every five years for giving necessary suggestions for improving the financial position of the urban local bodies and it should also suggest the ways and means for making the ULBs strong from economic point of view. Finally, State Government should take into consideration the observations and suggestions of the Finance Commission in right earnest.

Notes and References:

1. Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, pp. 17, 18, 19, 20, 22.
2. Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, pp. 17, 18, 19, 20, 22.
3. Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, pp. 17, 18, 19, 20, 22.
4. Tables: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, pp. 17, 18, 19, 20, 22.
5. Table: 3.5, p. 61.
6. Table 3.10, p. 67.
7. Table 3.11, p. 69.
8. Table 3.16, p. 75.
9. Table 3.21, p. 82.
10. Table 3.26, p. 88.
11. Table 3.27, p. 90.
12. Table 3.32, p. 97.
13. Table 3.37, p. 103.