5.6. SUGGESTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The foregoing discussion reveal that though the board is doing a lot but the desired results are not available because of the various problems faced by the HSAMB. Here in this section, some suggestions which may help improve the system are being made.

- Since the board comprises of bureaucrats-only LA,S and HCS officers, who are no doubt very able and competent administrators, but they lack knowledge in agriculture and dealing with agriculture produce. Hence it is suggested that the constitution should be amended to the extent that full time agricultureal post graduates having wide experience in marketing of agricultural produce could be added as a full time member, who should guide the authorities on technical aspects.

- The board has expanded its activities manifold and is at present covering 106 market committees, 178 market yards and 182 purchase centres. To monitor and enforce the various rules and regulations has become some what difficult. It has been observed that many of the functionaries in the committee have not renewed their licences due to one reason or the other best known to them. This has been experienced more at the lower level. The reason cited for this is the scarcity of labour land taking action against them amounting to holding the work and that too at the prime period. The arhtiyas and commission agents should be asked to comply with this and deposit the small amount of license fee with the authorities. Occasional cheek and strict action could help in improving the situation. The marketing enforcement staff needs to be more vigilant. The farmers at their end should also be vigilant and in case it is required they should make the necessary complaint to the authorities.

- The number of post should be notified and the recruitment of additional staff due to the political or other interference be stopped altogether to save the expenditure.

- The working of the HSAMB should not be controlled by the Government and some autonomy should be given to the organization to deal with urgent matters and take the necessary decisions immediately.
• Transfers of the officers should be done only in the off season so that the work in the flush period may not suffer.

• Proper care should be given to the acquisition of land. The site of the mandi should be easily approachable from the surrounding villages attached to the mandi, should be easily connected and all the facilities are available in the vicinity of the area. It should not be selected on political grounds, pulls and pressures of the politicians and district authorizes. While selecting the land care should be taken to prefer the barren and uncultivared lands on which nothing grows, which will help in several ways like (i) the farmers will not hesitate to part with such a piece of land, (ii) the farmer will get a good rate for his uncultivated and unproductive land and (iii) the authorities will not face any problems of representations, stay in the acquisition of land and (iv) avoid unnecessary litigation for several years. (v) The projects will not be delayed and the project costs will not increase. Care should however be taken that the price of land fixed is realistic and can be well compared with the existing market price. However if the vacancies exist in the organization and the kins of the farmers are otherwise eligible, they should be considered for the jobs.

• Litigation should be avoided as far as possible. For the purpose a high level grievances committee should be formed at the headquarters and the affected parties should be given a chance to present their problems and view points to them and their problems should be properly attended to. Not only this their problems should be resolved in a time bound manner so that they don’t feel dejected and are able to concentrate on their work. For minor problems mistakes or offences, their intention should be judged based on their performance and integrity with a positive approach. This will to a great extent help in increasing the efficiency and the working of the HSAMB/ Marketing Committees will get a boost.

• Funds should be generated by the board/ Market Committees and the loopholes in the system should be plugged. Attempt should be made that the entire produce is sold and bought through the market Committee and the full fee is collected. The sale in the villages to kaccha arhtiyas and the banias and the
bated purchases should altogether be stopped and heavy penalty should be imposed on the farmers. Licence fee should be mandatory for all the functionaries and the rules may be tightened on this account. Proper supervision by the enforcement should be made and the rules and regulation as per the constitution laid down and amended from time to time be implemented religiously in the field as in the working of market committees.

- The State Boards should help in and persuade the central government to declare the MSP at the time of sowing the crop, so that the farmers are able to decide the cropping pattern to follow. Not only this, the Board should take the initiative in collaborating the various procurement agencies to start the procurement at the proper time and well before the produce reaches the mandis so that the marginal and small farmers who have the low retaining and bargaining power can make full use of it and can sell their produce without incurring any losses. The strikes, bandhs, road blockages and the railway track blockage could altogether be avoided saving lot of government funds in dealing with the situation and can help saving lot of government finances. The problems of the sheller owners, rice millers, floor millers and cotton ginners should be considered well in advance and the board can coordinating in solving those problems so that the procurement work does not suffer.

- Regarding the higher moisture content in paddy and percentage of discoloured and damaged paddy grains, the problem should be solved taking the positive approach. The farmers in general and the marginal and small farmers in particular does not have a mechanism or the infrastructure to check the moisture content of paddy and once they bring the produce in the mandi, the delay in the auction on this account or the reduction in cost could amount to a lot of harassment to the farmers. Neither there is a place nor the labour in the mandi to dry the paddy or sort out the defective and discoloured grains.

- The market Committee should help the farmers in getting their payments as early as possible and they should not be asked to visit the mandis again and again on this count. The board should take the initiative to coordinate with the
procurement agencies to make the payments to the farmers in a time bound manner and the farmers

- The mode of giving contracts for various construction jobs should be very transparent. The practice of enlisting the contracts with the board at the district and Panchkula headquarter has both advantages and disadvantages. The major disadvantage is the limited number of contractors, who compete within themselves and many a times it so happens that they pool among themselves and distribute the jobs available with the board/ division/district headquarter among themselves. As such they don’t compete with each other and render a helping hand by supporting each other and fill the quotations/tenders by sitting at one place and quoting the rates with mutusal conscent. This way the board suffers loss on account of giving the contract on the basis of false bids. An attempt has been made in this direction by HSAMB to computerize the system. This work could be expedited and should cover all the purchases made by the board. As far as possible, the contract should be given on the basis of open tenders. The contract awarded in the name of small and petty contract involving small amounts could be pooled.

- The board should employ/recruit technical persons preferably having agriculture and marketing background on permanent basis so that the planning could be done in a better way.

- The post of Agriculture economist/farm management specialist could be created at the headquarter, who should be assigned the job of periodically analysis of data related to the cost and expenditure so that the ways and means could be devised to reduce the cost as far as possible. He should also be assigned the job of doing this job for various marketing committees. This way the efficiency of the board as also the various market committees could be increased.

- Market information and market intelligence needs to be improved. Statistical wing at the HSAMB headquarter may be created which should collect the prices of various agricultural commodities be collected and disseminated to the various marketing committees in the state. The gap period of the information the farmers receive could be reduced significantly.
• A strong computer net work should be created. All the market committees in the state should be connected with the HSAMB headquarter through the network. The data pertaining to all the market committees should be fed in the computers and the headquarter should have an easy access to that. The data for the committees too can be analysed by the agricultural economist for various parameters which could help in reducing the cost and increasing the profit and efficiency. This will also help reducing the problems between the market committees and the HSAMB. The computerization of all the procedures should be completed at the earliest.

• The aims and objectives and the policies of HSAMB should be very clear. The approach of Co-operative marketing, Organic farming and the Contract farming could be clearly spelled out. The role of their representatives in the governing body could also be spelled out clearly. The problems of the multifarious board could be properly spelled out and redressed.

• The expenditure on the HSAMB could be curtailed down and the priority should be given to the expenditure on providing the facilities to the farmers and development of infrastructure in the existing mandis. Small and essential jobs involving small amount of money should be taken up immediately without delay.

• Loop holes in various rules and regulations, wherever possible may be plugged and made clear so that no body can take the advantage out of it.