Analysis of secondary data in the first chapter has revealed that initially very few women could enter in the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly of the state. Though the number of aspirants as well as those elected has been almost steadily growing over the years in both the Parliament and the state Legislative Assembly, yet the political participation of women at both levels is abysmally low.

A few steps have been taken to correct the imbalance in the representation in the legislatures. This includes the introduction of the 81st and 85th Constitutional (Amendment) Bills, which could not become Acts. The two bills sought to provide reservation of seats for the women in the Parliament and the state legislatures. Earlier, the 73rd and the 74th Constitutional (Amendment) Acts passed in 1993, which inter alia provided for reservation of at least one-thirds seats in the rural and urban local bodies, respectively. As per the provisions of the Act, every state legislature was to enact their own Acts (for their respective territories) incorporating the broad provisions of the two Constitutional (Amendment) Acts within one year from the passage of the said two Acts. The Haryana Panchayati Raj Act enacted in 1994 provided, besides other things, for reservation of at least one-thirds seats for the women in the three institutions of rural local government (Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats). More than a decade has passed since the passage of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act and so far three general elections (1994, 2000 and 2005) to the rural local bodies in Haryana have been held. A decade has been considered as sufficient for
evaluating the performance of the Act. Accordingly, the present study has been taken up to examine the extent of political empowerment of women in the Mewat region of Haryana.

Mewat region is located in the southeast of the state. Despite being located barely 70 kilometers from the national Capital and about 30 kilometers from the city of Gurgaon, viewed from any indicator be it education, economic, political, infrastructure, Mewat is one of the most backward regions in the Haryana state. The region has 491 villages. The Mewat region sprawls over an area of 1874 square kilometers, which is 4.24 percent of the total area of the state of Haryana. Mewat region comprises of six blocks and spreads over two districts viz. Faridabad and Gurgaon. Five blocks viz. Nuh, Taoru, Nagina, Ferozpur Jhirka, and Purnhana are from Gurgaon district and the sixth block viz. Hathin is from Faridabad district.

The position of the women in the Mewat region is very deplorable. The female literacy rate is a mere 25.1 percent, while Gurgaon district’s female literacy rate is 62.85 percent and Haryana’s 55.73 percent. Child marriage is another social malice that is prevalent in the region. In almost all villages, girls between 13 and 16 years of age are married off. Dowry is a common practice in the area. Mohammedi, a field coordinator with the Mewat Development Agency, and the first Meo woman to have done her post graduation, says that women are rated as second grade citizen here. She says, women work in the fields, at home, fetch water and do all the chores, while men just sit around the chaupal, smoke and play cards.
At present there are six Panchayat Samitis and 370 Gram Panchayats in the Mewat region. Though a separate district for the Mewat region has been carved out, a separate Zila Parishad is yet to be created for the district. Thus, at present Mewat region is represented in two Zila Parishads: Faridabad Zila Parishad (in which two members from the Hathin Block are represented) and the Gurgaon Zila Parishad (in which six members from rest of the five blocks viz. Nuh, Taoru, Nagina, Ferozpur Jhirka, Punhana are represented).

Primary data has been collected from the 220 woman representatives of the Mewat region with the help of a schedule. The 220 respondents included all the 8 woman representatives in the Zila Parishad hailing from the Mewat region and all the 67 woman representatives in the six Panchayat Samitis of the Mewat region. Besides, it includes 145 woman representatives from the randomly selected six Gram Panchayats from each of the six blocks (Nuh, Taoru, Nagina, Punhana, Ferozpur Jhirka and Hathin) of the Mewat region.

The present chapter has been divided into two parts. In the first part, observations have been made and in the second part, suggestions have been given.

5.1 Observations

The primary data has been systematized, tabulated and analysed in the previous chapter (Chapter-4). On the basis of that analysis, certain observations have been drawn which are presented below.

5.1.1 Socio-Educational Background

Socio-educational background of the representatives is an important element that has a direct bearing on the discharging of their obligations as peoples’
representatives. A complex whole of several indicators such as age, experience, marital status, education etc. determine the extent to which a person would be able to discharge his or her official obligations especially those of people’s representatives. Hence the researcher obtained information regarding age, marital status, nature of family, family size, education etc. of the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region and these have been analysed in section 4.1 in the previous chapter. On the basis of the analysis, the following observations have been drawn:

1. Majority of the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region belong to the old age group.
2. All of them are married and none of them is a divorcée or widow.
3. Considerable majority of them belong to the joint family system.
4. Majority of the woman representatives from the Mewat region have five or more children.
5. The number of woman representatives of the Mewat region having fewer children grows with the level of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
6. The number of woman representatives having joint families grows with the level of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
7. An overwhelming majority of the woman representatives from the Mewat region are illiterate.

On the basis of the above observations, the first hypothesis of the study viz. “The educational background of the woman representatives of the Mewat region is poor” stands proved.
5.1.2 Economic Background

Economic background of a person holding some political office in the Panchayati Raj Institutions is quite crucial. This is because unlike the holders of political offices at the higher levels viz., in the Parliament and the state Assemblies, the holders of political offices at the grassroots level are not given any honorarium or allowances etc. Therefore, if a person with meager means is elected to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, he or she would not be able to spare time for discharging the functions of the local body or even to attend the meetings thereof. Earning of livelihood would be more crucial to him or her than discharging the functions of the local body. Thus, in case the economic background of the woman representatives of the Mewat region is poor, they will not be able to participate in the affairs of their respective local bodies and hence will not be effectively empowered. Therefore, the researcher enquired about the economic background of the woman representatives and analysed their responses in the section 4.2 of the previous chapter. Following broad observations have been drawn on the basis of the analysis:

1. Considerable majority of the woman respondents of the Mewat region are agriculturists while one-fourths of them are labourers.

2. Slightly less than half of them belong to the Lower Class.

3. Along with the increase in the level of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (from Gram Panchayat to Panchayat Samiti to the Zila Parishad), the affluence of the woman representatives increased.
4. While majority of the woman representative of Mewat region belong to the poorest sections of the society in the case of Gram Panchayats, majority of them in the case of the Panchayat Samitis and all of them in the case of the Zila Parishad come from the affluent section of the society. The second hypothesis of the study viz. “The woman representatives of the Mewat region are economically backward” stands partially proved.

5.1.3 Political Background

It was desired to know whether the woman representatives of the Mewat region are politically active i.e., whether they are affiliated with some political party and cherishing some political philosophy. It is because the political empowerment of the woman representatives would be more effective in case they are associated with some political party. Therefore, a few questions were included and asked from the woman representatives with a view to examine their political affiliation. The responses have been analysed in the previous chapter in section 4.3. Basing the analysis, the following observations have been drawn:

1. An overwhelming majority of the woman respondents from the Mewat region are politically affiliated and belong to the Congress.

2. All the politically affiliated woman representatives have been workers in their respective political party.

On the basis of the above observations it can be said that the third hypothesis of the study viz. “The woman representatives of the Mewat region have been politically inactive” has been disproved.
5.1.4 Whether Belong to Politically Active Families

It has been usually alleged that under the provisions of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 majority of women elected to the Panchayati Raj Institutions belong to those families some of whose male member has earlier contested some election in the past. To ascertain the truth behind this allegation, the researcher enquired the woman representatives as to whether some of their male family member contested some election in the past. The responses of the woman representatives have been analysed in section 4.4 in the previous chapter.

On the basis of the this analysis, it has been observed that only one-thirds majority of the woman representatives from the Mewat region belong to such families some of whose member contested some election in the past. Therefore, the fourth hypothesis of the study viz. “The woman representatives of the Mewat region belong to those families whose male members have contested some election(s) in the past” could not be supported.

5.1.5 Level of Awareness

The Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, *inter alia* provided for at least one-third reservation of seats for the woman with a view to politically empower them. However, the purpose of the Act would be defeated in case the woman representatives are not aware about the various provisions of the Act. In fact, for the success of any Act or scheme, it is necessary to be aware about its provisions. Thus, for instance, the representatives are expected to know the provisions governing elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the tenure of the representatives, rules governing their removal, reelection etc., rules regarding the
meetings of the local bodies, carrying out the business, the financial provisions, rules governing record keeping of the local bodies etc., to name a few.

Thus, with the objective of knowing the extent of their empowerment, the researcher tried to ascertain whether the woman representatives are aware about the provisions of the Act and asked a few such questions from them. The responses of the woman representatives have been analysed in section 4.5 of the previous chapter. On the basis of this analysis it has been observed that vast majority of the woman respondents from the Mewat region are found unaware about the provisions of the Act. Thus, the fifth hypothesis of the study, therefore, “The woman representatives of the Mewat region are not aware about the provisions of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994” stands proved.

5.1.6 Participation in the Election Process

Participation of the woman representatives in the election process is an important indicator of their political empowerment. In case, the woman actively participated in the election process it would mean that they have been interested in contesting the election and being elected as people’s representatives. Thus, the researcher included a few questions in the schedule to know whether the woman representatives were actively involved in the process of election or were mere passive spectators while some of their family members, as has been often alleged, were managing the election. The responses to these questions were analysed in the previous chapter in section 4.6. On the basis of that analysis, the following conclusions have been drawn:
1. More than three-fourths of the woman representatives from the Mewat region contested the election whereas the rest about one-fourth were declared elected unopposed.

2. Decision to contest the election in the case of vast majority of those woman representative from the Mewat region (who contested the election rather than being elected unopposed) was taken by either their respective husbands or some other male member of their family. Only about one-sevenths of them themselves took the decision to contest election.

3. The number of those woman representatives of Mewat region who themselves filled their nomination papers is negligible; nomination papers of almost of them were filled by some of their family members on their behalf.

4. Slightly more than one-thirds of those woman representatives (who contested the election rather than being elected unopposed) of the Mewat region participated in the canvassing for their candidature at the time of their election.

5. More than three-fifths of those woman representatives who participated in the canvassing for their candidature were assisted only by the males during the electioneering whereas the remaining about two-fifths were assisted by both the males and the females.

6. Not even half of the woman representatives who contested the election rather than being elected unopposed were at the polling station on the Election Day.
7. More than two-thirds of those woman representatives of the Mewat region who contested the election rather than being elected unopposed had put up only males as their agents on the polling stations on the Election Day.

From the above observations, it can be concluded that majority of the woman representatives had not actively participated in the election process and that their election was managed by the male members of their family. Hence the sixth hypothesis of the study viz. "The level of participation of the woman representatives of the Mewat region in the election process to these bodies has been poor" stands proved.

5.1.7 Participation in the Scheduled Formal Meetings of the PRIs

Mere election to the local bodies on the seats reserved for the woman is not sufficient to conclude that they have been really empowered. In fact, their empowerment would be incomplete unless the woman representatives participate in the meetings of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions. Thus, to know whether the woman representatives attend the meetings of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (and thus to know whether they have been really politically empowered) a few questions were included in the schedule and the responses of the woman representatives were analysed in section 4.7 of the fourth chapter. On the basis of the analysis, following observations have been drawn:

1. Even less than one-thirds of the woman representatives of the Mewat region have been receiving notices for the meetings of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions.
2. About nine-tenths of the woman representatives belonging to the Mewat region have not been receiving agenda for the meetings of their respective Panchayat Raj Institutions.

3. Even less than one-thirds of the woman representatives of the Mewat region are found to be attending the meetings of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions.

4. About three-fourths of those woman representative from the Mewat region who do not attend the meetings, stated that they have not been permitted to do so by the male members of their families.

5. More than two-thirds of those woman representatives of the Mewat region who do not attend the meetings of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, reported that it have been the respective husbands who attend the meetings in their place.

On the basis of the above observations, it can be said that majority of the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been attending the meetings. Thus, it can be concluded that the seventh hypothesis of the study viz. “The level of participation of the woman representatives of the Mewat region in the scheduled formal meetings of the bodies has been poor” stands proved.

5.1.8 Participation in the Deliberations of the Meetings

Though attendance at the meetings of the rural local bodies is crucial yet it does not indicate that the women have been really politically empowered. What is important is that they should actively participate in the proceedings of the meetings. If they do not involve themselves in the proceedings and remain mere
passive listeners or mute spectators of what transpires at the meetings, the very purpose of reserving seats in the rural local bodies to achieve political empowerment of women would stand defeated. However, it is usually alleged that the woman representatives do not involve themselves in the proceedings of the meetings and do not express their views freely in the meetings. It is also possible that the male members discourage the woman members even though they (the latter) may like to express their views. Such gestures impede the process of political empowerment. Therefore, the researcher enquired certain questions from the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region to know whether they participate in the deliberations taking place in the meetings. The responses of the woman representatives have been tabulated and analysed in Section 4.8 of the fourth chapter. On the basis of the analysis, following results have been drawn:

1. More than two-thirds of the woman respondents from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region reported that they veil their faces in the meetings of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions.

2. More than two-thirds of those woman representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region who have been attending the meetings stated that they do not express their views freely in the meetings.

3. Majority of the woman representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region who do not attend the meetings stated that they hesitate in doing so while one-fourths of them said that they have been discouraged by their male counterparts.
4. About three-fourths of those woman representatives who have been attending the meetings of the Panchayati Raj Institutions said that the issues in the meetings are usually raised by only the male members.

On the basis of the above observations, it may be concluded that majority of the woman representatives do not freely participate in the deliberations of the meetings of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions and hence the eighth hypothesis of the study viz. "The level of participation of the woman representatives of the Mewat region in the deliberations in meetings of the bodies has been poor" stands proved.

5.1.9 Participation in the Functional Committees

Since legislatures are big in size (comprise of many members), they are not appropriate places for discussions on serious matters. Therefore, to discharge their functions in an effective manner, several committees are constituted in every legislature and this is a universal phenomenon. Thus, the Indian Parliament as well as the legislatures of all the states have several standing and ad hoc committees to discharge several of their legislative functions effectively. Active participation of the representatives in these committees would mean that they (the representatives) are discharging their functions effectively.

Local bodies are no exception to it and provision has been specifically made for the constitution of a number of functional committees in the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994. Section 22 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994,\(^1\)

\(^1\) According to the Section 22(1) of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994: 1) Every Gram Panchayat shall constitute the following sub-committees, namely,

(i) Production sub-committee for performing functions relating to agriculture production, animal husbandry, rural industries and poverty alleviation programmes.
has made the provision for the constitution of several sub-committees and local committees. These committees are to be constituted in all the local bodies. With a view to measure the actual level of participation (and, therefore, of empowerment) of the women, the researcher asked a few questions from the woman representatives of the Mewat region. The responses of the woman representatives of the Mewat region have been tabulated and analysed in the previous chapter in section 4.9. On the basis of this analysis, it has been concluded that:

1. An overwhelming majority of the woman representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region are not aware about the provision regarding constitution of the functional committees of the local bodies. Incidentally, none of the woman representatives from the Gram Panchayats of the Mewat region are aware about this provision.

2. An overwhelming majority of the woman representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region have not been nominated on any functional committee.

3. None of those woman representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of Mewat region who have not been nominated on any functional committee are:
   - Social Justice sub-committee for performing functions relating to:
     (a) promotion of education, economic, social, cultural, sports, games, arts, etc., and the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and other weaker sections;
     (b) protection of such castes and classes from social injustice and any form of exploitation;
     (c) promotion of welfare of women and children;
   - Amenities sub-committee in respect of education, public health, public works and other functions of sub-committees of the Gram Panchayat;
   - ...;
   - Any other committee the Gram Panchayat may deem fit to constitute.
committee of their respective local bodies could cite any specific reason for this.

From the above observations it is obvious that the participation of the woman representatives from the Mewat region in the functional committees of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions has been insignificant. Thus, the ninth hypothesis of the study viz., “The level of participation of the woman representatives of the Mewat region in the functional committees of the local bodies has been negligible” has been proved.

5.1.10 Raising the Problems of the Ward

People’s representatives are elected from and represent a particular territory – a well-defined geographical entity and which comprises of a particular population. They are, therefore, supposed to work for the development of the area which they represent. The representatives are also supposed to raise the problems of the ward and to get them resolved. Their success in raising the problems of the area which they represent and getting them resolved is an important yardstick to measure whether the representative of the people has been successful or not.

Woman representatives at the local level are no exception to it. In the case of the woman representatives who have been got elected on the seats reserved for them in the local bodies their success in raising the local problems and getting them resolved is also indicative of their empowerment. Thus, in case they do this work successfully, it would be a sign of their real political empowerment. Considering this, the researcher enquired a few questions from the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions of Mewat region as to whether
they raise the problems of the people of their respective wards and succeed in getting them resolved. Their responses have been tabulated and analysed in the previous chapter in section 4.10. On the basis of this analysis, the following observations have been made:

1. Even less than one-thirds of the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions from the Mewat region stated that they have been raising the problems of their respective wards.

2. Majority of those woman representatives who have been raising the problems of their respective wards from the Mewat region fail in getting these problems resolved.

The above observations show that majority of the woman representatives of the Mewat region fail to effectively raise the problems of their respective wards and do not succeed in getting those problems resolved. Thus the tenth hypothesis of the study viz. “The woman representatives of the Mewat region have not been able to raise the problems of their wards and get them resolved” also stands proved.

5.1.11 Interaction with the Public

Yet another means to know whether the women have been empowered as per the spirit of the 73rd Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 is to find whether the woman representatives have been meeting the people of their wards who come to them with their problems. In case the woman representatives have been themselves meeting the people and attend to their problems actively, it would mean that real political empowerment has taken
place. With a view to measure the extent of empowerment of the woman representatives of the Mewat region, the researcher considered it necessary to know whether they have been themselves attending the people of wards coming to their home. Thus, a few questions were asked from the woman representatives and their responses have been analysed in section 4.11 in the fourth chapter. Following observations have been drawn on the basis of this analysis:

1. Vast majority of the woman representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the Mewat region do not themselves entertain the people coming to their home with their problems.

2. More than three-fifths of those woman representatives of the Mewat region who do not themselves attend the people of their respective wards, stated that it have been their husbands who attend the people at their home. In the case of about one-thirds of them, their sons have been attending the people at their home.

3. The attitude of family members of vast majority of those woman representatives from Mewat region who have been themselves attending the people of their wards at their home, has been negative.

Therefore, it is clear that the woman representatives of the Mewat region do not themselves attend the people who come to their respective homes. It has been some other male family member, usually their respective husbands, who attend the people at their homes. Hence the eleventh hypothesis of the study viz. “The woman representatives from the Mewat region have not been themselves
attending the people of their wards at their home” has been supported by the study.

5.1.12 Social Status of the Woman Representatives

Social status of a person as well as the attitude of the family members towards him/her is usually determined by the position the person holds. Thus, the social status of the individual and the attitude of the family members towards him/her change along with a change in his/her position. Accordingly, it is likely that there has been a change in the social status of the woman representatives. It is also possible that the attitude of the family members of the woman representatives towards them might have also undergone a change. Thus, for instance, their family members or the people in the social circle might have started consulting the woman representatives on some important issues/matters.

To ascertain whether there has been any change in their social status and in the attitude of their family members towards them, a few questions were included in the schedule and were put to the woman representatives of the Mewat region. Their responses to these questions were analysed in section-4.12 in the previous chapter. The following observations have been made on the basis of this analysis:

1. An overwhelming majority of woman representatives of the Mewt region have perceived an increase in their social status after their being elected as people’s representatives.

2. An overwhelming majority of the woman representatives from the Mewat region have perceived a positive change in the attitude of their family
Thus, the twelfth hypothesis of the study viz. “There has not been any appreciable change in the social status of the woman representatives of the Mewat region after their getting elected as people’s representatives” stands disapproved.

5.1.13 Level of Awareness & Participation vis-à-vis Level of PRIs

On the basis of the analysis in section 4.5 in the previous chapter, it is clear that the number of woman representatives who are aware about the provisions of the Act increases along with the increasing level of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (from the Gram Panchayats to the Panchayat Samitis to the Zila Parishad).

Further, on the basis of the analysis in sections 4.7 and 4.8 of the fourth chapter, it is obvious that the participation, in terms of both attendance and deliberations, of the woman representatives in the meetings of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions increases along with the increasing level of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (from the Gram Panchayats to the Panchayat Samitis to the Zila Parishad).

Hence the thirteenth hypothesis of the study viz. “the level of awareness and participation of the woman representatives of the Mewat region increases with the increase in the level of Panchayati Raj Institutions i.e., from Gram Panchayat to Zila Parishad” also stands proved.

5.1.14 Satisfaction of the Woman Representatives

The satisfaction of any functionary or official with the position he or she holds is an indicator of whether the person would be motivated to discharge his or her...
duties with enthusiasm and successfully. In the case of women from the Mewat region, it would also be an indicator whether the woman representatives have been really politically empowered since in case they are satisfied they would be motivated to discharge the duties of the people's representatives. Therefore, the researcher also tried to know the personal satisfaction of the woman representatives of the Mewat region and with this end a question was included in the schedule and put to them. Their responses have been tabled and analysed in section 4.13 of the previous chapter.

On the basis of the analysis it has been observed that all the woman representatives from the Mewat region have been satisfied with their present position and the role they are performing. Further, all of them have expressed their desire and also eagerness to contest the election for the Panchayati Raj Institutions next time.

From the above discussion, it may be concluded that there is a difference of political empowerment of woman at the three levels of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. At the Zila Parishad level there is relatively greater empowerment of the woman representatives and this is followed by the Panchayat Samitis. At these two levels the women are breaking the social barriers and coming forward to perform their role. However, at the Gram Panchayats level their performance is dismal. But a process has already been initiated and has started germinating; it is likely to show results in the near future when the women in a backward region of the state (Mewat) will come forward and participate in the process of governance.
5.2 Suggestions

From the study it has emerged that women in the Mewat region have not been 'really' politically empowered. Certain suggestions have been given here which may prove helpful in empowering the women in the Mewat region. These include:

1. As has been observed that there are certain obstacles in path of their empowerment and effective participation in the decision-making process. The biggest stumbling block in this process is prevalence of mass illiteracy. Therefore, the very first step in the direction of women empowerment is to educate them. Special campaigns should be organised to educate the woman representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions from the Mewat region. On the lines of 'educating the elders' a special campaign may be launched to educate the woman representatives. Imparting education in this manner should be at such timings which is convenient to them and should also be very near to their place of residence. Moreover, the groups should not be too small (lest interaction should not take place) and also too big (lest intra-group discussion should become impossible).

2. It has been observed that the level of awareness of the woman representatives of the Mewat region has been very poor. Therefore, it is suggested that special training sessions should be organised for the woman representatives of the Mewat region. During the training programme the woman representatives should be educated about the provisions of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994. The woman representatives should
also be educated about their rights over the various government functionaries working in their respective jurisdiction. The woman representatives should also be trained about how they can make the best utilization of the resources. They may also be trained about how to make effective planning about the rural areas. They should also be trained as to how to supervise the various public works undertaken in the rural areas.

3. Some of the woman representatives of the Mewat region have complained and reported that they can not participate and concentrate in the affairs of their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions because earning of their livelihood is more important for them. Accordingly, it is suggested that the woman representatives should be suitably compensated whenever they undertake some work as people’s representatives.

4. One of the observations of the study is that a large section of the woman representatives does not receive any notice and/or agenda for the scheduled formal meetings of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Accordingly, it is suggested that the practice of serving the notices to the members, as has been provided in the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, should be strictly followed. In this regard it is also suggested that the messengers should be specially instructed to hand over the notices/agenda of the meetings only to the woman representatives rather than to their family members. The messengers should also be asked to get acknowledgement of the woman representatives after handing over the notice/agenda to them.
5. Male members from the families of the woman representatives should be prohibited to attend the meetings or performing other works of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

6. The rule regarding attendance of the members in the scheduled formal meetings of the Panchayati Raj Institutions should be strictly followed and those not attending the meetings of the Panchayati Raj Institutions should be disqualified from being members of the respective Panchayati Raj Institutions as per the provisions of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.

7. The local bureaucracy behaves in a masterly manner with the people’s representatives in general and the woman representatives in particular. To improve upon the situation, two-pronged action is required. Firstly, the woman representatives should be properly educated and trained and secondly, the local bureaucracy should be specifically brought under the control of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.