Chapter - Six
Case Studies
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This chapter includes a few case studies of some women legislators in terms of their entry into politics, their socio-economic background, their involvement in party decision-making processes and participation in legislature proceedings. The details of seven women legislators as case studies are described focusing mainly on the aspects of the proposed questions raised in the problem of the present study. Efforts have been made to arrive at findings and establishing relationships with the questions in each case and then summing up of those clearly depicting their relationships.

Case Study-1:

Ms Mayawati, popularly known in the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), as “Bahin ji” was born in 1956 and is now 44 years old and unmarried. She started her political career 17 years back when she was only 27 years of age. She is the first woman from amongst scheduled castes who became the Chief Minister twice of the largest state like UP. Although her tenure as chief minister was too short, only of total eleven months to put together, but she has achieved many milestones in her
political career, which other politicians could not achieve in life time career.

She was born in Jatav, scheduled caste (Dalit) family. Her father was a resident of the village, Badalpur in Bulandshahar district of U.P. who eventually settled in Delhi due to his government service. Ms. Mayawati was born and brought up in Delhi and she completed her studies in Delhi only. She graduated from University of Delhi and later did her B.Ed. She then joined LL.B. degree. She wanted to be an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer to serve the Dalit class of the society.

Her father was a great follower of Dr. Ambedkar and was a frequent visitor of Dr. Ambedkar Bhawan particularly on the day of celebration of the birthday of Dr. Ambedkar wherein many politicians and intellectuals use to speak about the sacrifices and achievements of Dr. Ambedkar. He always used to carry Ms. Mayawati along on all such occasions. She was highly impressed and influenced by the teachings of Dr. Ambedkar.

In 1977, when Janata Party was in power in the Center, there was a three-day seminar in Constitutional Club, Delhi organized by the Janata Party on “Remove Caste” where Ms Mayawati was invited as
one of the speakers. Socialist leader late Shri Rajnarayan was convening function and repeatedly using "Harijan Word" while addressing people belonging to the scheduled castes. When Ms Mayawati was invited to the stage to deliver her speech she said that "on one hand, Shri Rajnarayan ji is talking about removal of castes while calling people of scheduled castes as Harijans on the other. There is no word like "Harijan" in the Indian Constitution. The leader like Rajnarayan would never allow the removal of the caste system in the country. Therefore, the conference on "Remove Caste" seems to me cheating on the people of scheduled castes. The people of oppressed castes sitting there appreciated this kind of bold statement. After the conference, people belonging to the lower castes gathered at a place wherein workers of BSP unit of Delhi were also present. The BSP workers were so much impressed by the views of Ms Mayawati that they went to meet her next day at her residence. During the discussion, they mentioned about the BSP movement and its founder Shri Kanshi Ram and invited her to join BSP movement. Kanshi Ram was also told about Ms Mayawati and her flaring speech. Later he listened her in one or two public meetings. He was impressed by her thoughts and one day went to meet her at her residence. The BSP workers accompanied him.
All the members of her family were present in the house and she was preparing for her IAS examination at that time. This was the first meeting between Mayawati and Kanshi Ram. Looking at the heap of books, Kanshi Ram asked Mayawati, what does she want to be after her studies. Mayawati replied that she wanted to be a Collector and serve the people of the oppressed classes. Kanshi Ram said that she couldn't serve them even if she succeeds to be a collector because a collector is a puppet of the ruling party in the state and has to work as per the direction from the political masters of that party. Mayawati realised that if the society has to be served at a larger scale, she has to be a leader of the society and not the collector. This was the turning point in her life and she joined BSP movement. She decided to join politics and BSP party as well. Initially, her father opposed her joining the BSP movement. He thought the BSP movement may not pick up and his daughter may fall in life. He suggested to play safe and to go for a lucrative government job. If at all she had to go for a political career she should join some already successful party and not the one, which is yet to be launched. According to Mayawati, she discussed this matter with Kanshi Ram and he told her, that it is a matter of ideology to him; it should be matter of ideology for her also. Success or failure comes
later, firmly told Kanish Ram. She opted for the BSP movement. Prior to her active political career, she was a teacher in Delhi Education Department from 1977 to 1984.

BSP was established in 1984 and in 1989 by-election, Mayawati was elected as first MP of the BSP from Bijnore parliamentary constituency. This is how Mayawati entered into active politics. As per the statement of Mr. Kanish Ram, keeping in mind the opposition of her father, he decided to give her more and more opportunities to exhibit her talent. The seniors in the BSP movement did not like this. They started opposing her. The more problems were created for her.

During the years of 1982-83, the platform of Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangathan (DS-4) was used in a big way. Many experiments were conducted by using platform DS-4. During these experiments, she got much exposure and opportunities to show her talent. This kind of chances created jealousy among the seniors in the movement. They started opposing her vehemently. In such an atmosphere BSP was launched on 14th April in 1984. BSP brought more opportunities. She prepared Muzaffarnagar district and fought 1984 Lok Sabha from Kairana Parliamentary Seat. Out of all the BSP candidates, all over India, she got the highest number of votes. This created more jealousy.
amongst the seniors. In 1985, she prepared for the Bijnore Parliament Seat and she was nominated as candidate during the by-election. By securing 65000 votes, she made it a triangular fight. The success she achieved in this election created more problems for her. The senior colleagues of her in BSP could not tolerate her rise. (Akhter, 1999: 2).

She told that they tried to put pressure on Kanshi Ram, to curtail opportunities given to her. On the refusal of the same, most of the seniors had left the movement, started on their own. But none of them who opposed the rise of her is visible today. Whereas Mayawati has become a success as Chief Minister of the largest state of India.

In 1993, first time there was alliance between SP and BSP in UP state and Mulayam Singh was elected as the Chief Minister. But the alliance could not last long and after 18 months, the BSP withdrew its support to Mulayam Singh Government, which was then reduced to the minority. The BJP and the congress supported BSP and Mayawati was elected as the Chief Minister. She thus became the first youngest Scheduled Caste (Dalit) woman Chief Minister in India. Again in 1997, in alliance with BJP she was elected Chief Minister for the second time. Her tenure as Chief Minister, both the times, has been very short but she has always been on the National scene of Indian politics. In twelfth
Lok Sabha in 1998, she won from Akharpur reserved constituency and in 1999 election, again re-elected from the same constituency. She has been conferred many National and International awards for promoting social justice to Backward classes and Dalits.

This case study shows that the women leader (Legislator) is quite young, dynamic, well educated coming from a very ordinary lower middle class scheduled caste family. She is a life member of the BSP; in fact she is one of the founder members and General Secretary of this party. She has emerged as a leader by virtue of her talent as she had no political family background. She has won first election as an MP of her party. She has not only been successful in winning Parliamentary seats but also became the Chief Minister of the largest state of India twice.

Initially, there was opposition from her family for her entering into politics, as her father wanted her to be an I.A.S. officer. She also has to face strong opposition within the party from her seniors for the opportunities used by her. She feels that women are not easily accepted in party organization. She takes strong exception that women should be treated at par with men and there should not be any discrimination. She said that the persons entering into politics should be properly trained so that they can effectively participate in the party activities. She
suggested that political training should start from grassroots level. Women should be told and made to understand how they can bring change in society. Hard work and integrity are the only ways to succeed in life. She has admitted that because of her family’s non-political background she had to work hard to make a place for herself in the party politics.

She is deeply influenced by Dr. Ambedkar. She created many parks and statues of Ambedkar during her tenure as the Chief Minister, which of course were not admired and appreciated by the opposition. She preaches the teachings of Dr. Ambedkar and asks her brethren to achieve the distinction of a scholar like Dr. Ambedkar. The scholarly personality, hard working spirit and a confident attitude of Dr. Ambedkar have impressed her much to become a leader. She favours Dr. Ambedkar’s ideology of social transformation.

She started many new schemes like Ambedkar Gram Yojana, Administrative Reforms, Police Reforms, Rural development programs, etc. There were many other schemes for improving the socio-economic conditions of scheduled castes and backward class people. Check on the atrocities on SCs was her prime concern. Although, construction of hostels for girls, granting them scholarships, eradication of child
prostitution were part of her first budget speech in the assembly as chief Minister. Apparently, there is no other women specific issue, which was taken up by her in assembly or raised in the parliament.

6.2 Case Study-2:

The second case study is about another woman legislator who belonged to Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). Prior to entering active politics, she was a teacher. However, right from her school days she was associated with the socialist movement. The initial inspiration to enter politics was from her uncle. Her father too was in politics. After her marriage there was no difficulty for her because her husband was also active in politics.

Smt. Prabha Diwedi who is 64 years old now, joined politics after her retirement from the government service and was elected as legislator in the by-election, which was completed on 29th May 1997. She is Graduate and a trained teacher. She is a widow and her husband died pre-mature death. She was married to Late Shri Braham Dutt Diwedi who was a social worker and an active politician. Her father, Shri L.K. Dubey was a resident of Shadi Nagar, district Farukhabad who worked in the state government, and belonged to the lower middle class. Smt. Prabha Diwedi has worked as Principal of Govt. Girl's Inter
College, Basic Education Officer, and Professor in S.C. R.T. Lucknow.

From 27th March, 1997 to December 1997, she was Minister of Labour and Services in the Cabinet of Ms. Mayawati and also was the Minister of labour in the Kalayan Singh Ministry.

She came from a middle class and educated family. Her husband and father were both in active politics though none of them ever fought any election. Although she joined politics only after her retirement from the government job, but she has a political background wherein her husband groomed Frukhbad constituency and after his death she was nominated as BJP candidate from Frukhbad and won the same with a good margin.

It shows that she is well connected to a political family. She came into politics through fighting an election. She has to play a dual role, one for the public life and other of single widow mother of her three children which she find a uphill task. One important aspect of her political life has been that she was made Minister in the both Mayawati and Kalayan Singh Cabinet though she was elected for the first time to the assembly. This was due to her talent and experience in the service life.
She fights for the problems of the local people. She has taken up many issues of atrocities on women in the assembly. She admitted that very few women are vocal in the assembly. She also raised issues related to the various problems like labour, television and industries, etc. She started many social work related to the women empowerment in the field of women literacy and their income generation. She feels that the family responsibilities were hindrance in her way to enter in the politics. After the death of her husband, she wanted to participate in politics but due to responsibility of the children on her shoulders alone, she continued to be in the government service. She organised election campaign for the party, in the state. She enjoys a commanding position with in her party. She raised funds for the party. She stressed that one can draw the attention of the speaker of assembly only if one is sincere and is a person of integrity.

She was of the opinion that women should be educated and trained before they enter politics. They should be given more responsibility. They should join politics in larger numbers in order to put strong resistance to communalisation and criminalisation of politics. One very interesting factor that came out was that she was against reservation of
seats for women and feels that women should not be given any minority status because women are second to none.

6.3 Case Study-3:

This is the case study of a leading woman legislator, Kumari Urmilla Agnihotri from Sauri constituency of Etah district. She is 60 years old now and was elected to UP assembly first time in 1980 at the age of 40. She was again elected second time in 1985 and both the time from the Congress (l) party ticket. But she was very much active in politics in her younger days. She has graduated from Agra University and completed her LL.B. Degree from Lucknow University. She was a practicing advocate before she joined active politics. She is unmarried. Her father, Late Shri Pundit Rawatilal Agnihotri, had expired when she was only 14 years. Her mother brought her up. She belonged to a lower middle class conservative family. She was jailed twice in 1977-78 for 15 days in connection with Kans Ganj Barahdari Jhanda Andolan and opposing Smt. Indira Gandhi's arrest.

She joined All India Congress as a life member in the year 1957 at the age 17 years and has been active Congress worker since then. She became Member of UP Congress Committee in 1960 at the age of
20 years only and remained Member until 1964. After that she has been the member of various committees and worked on many party posts in the Congress party including Member, All India Congress Committee (1965-72), Member District Board Etah (1963), Member, Regional Catering Committee, Railway, Coordinator, U.P. Minority and Backward Class, etc. She was elected unopposed Deputy Chairperson of Collectorate Bar, Etah. Member, Working Committee of Etah Bar association, President, B.R. Junior High School, Etah, President, All India Post and Telegraphy Workers Association, etc.

She is an active member of the Mahila Congress the women's wing of the Congress party. She was the National Convenor of the Mahila Congress and contributed a lot in drafting the constitution of the Mahila Congress. She raised a number of women's issues and got them included into the Congress party manifesto. She openly advocated 30 percent reservation of seats for women in different political bodies and state legislatures. She was also a member of the campaign committee both at the state and at the National level and has suggested names of female candidates for elections and also for different position in the party organisation. Apart from the women related issues she expressed her concern for other socially relevant issues and problems.
As a representative of her constituency in the assembly, she has raised issues specific to her area i.e. Sauri Ganj, district Etah as well as those of general concern in the assembly. She takes keen interest in all assembly proceedings and never had any problems in putting her viewpoint convincingly on the assembly floor. She has moved several resolutions successfully in the assembly. She showed concern for the casual attitude of men legislators towards women related issues. However, she contended that all women legislators unite and extend their support on women specific issues irrespective of their affiliation to different political parties. She stressed that women legislators should not be given special privileges and there should not be any discrimination between women and men legislators.

As stated above she is of the opinion that men and women should be treated at par. Neither should there be any discrimination nor any special privilege, granted to women. But she could feel the indifferent and casual attitude of her male colleagues in the assembly towards women related issues. This she does not appreciate. She rather feels that all male legislators of the assembly should strongly support women related issues. Given an opportunity women can do equally well as men.
She expressed her concern about the criminalisation and communalisation of politics. A mass awareness by Media and electoral reforms can help in educating the people to counter the existing social evils. She suggested reservation of seats in elections and jobs for women for at least 25 years and stressed that the need for women to stand up as equals and participate fully in the National building process.

6.4 Case Study-4:

Here is a case of a woman belonging to the Indian National Congress and who joined active politics because of circumstances. She is an agriculturist by occupation. Smt. Santosh Kumari Pathak, born in 1947 in Data Ganj district Badaun, UP is now 53 years of age. She was married to Shri Akhilesh Chander Pathak in 1960 at the age of 13 years only and has three children. Her father late Shri Trivani Sahay Sharma was an active politician. He was an M.L.A. in the fifth UP assembly (1969) and was murdered in May 1971. It was only after her father’s death that she was persuaded to join active politics and contest the election. After the death of her father, she was given ticket in 1972 by-election. And she was elected from Data Ganj on Indian National Congress ticket. She was then only 25 years old. She had no support
from her in-laws because they felt that being a young woman she would not be able to face the challenges. However, her husband supported her. She contested her first election in 1972 and won. Again, in 1974 general assembly election, she was elected. Third and fourth time, she was elected in 1980 and 1989 general elections respectively.

She had some experience in the public services and exposure to many social and educational institutions of her district right from the days of her father. She used to attend several social functions with her father when he was an M.L.A. Therefore, she was a familiar face of her areas. She was the youngest women legislator when elected to assembly for the first time in 1972. She also became Member of U.P. Congress Committee in 1972.

In the year 1977-78, she along with her family was arrested and jailed with Mrs. Indira Gandhi during congress party movement against the arrest of Mrs. Gandhi. On the violation of IPC 144 in 1978, she was jailed in district jail Badaun for one month and was also fined rupees one hundred for the same offence. She has been a member of many legislative consultative committees during 1980-85. She is deputy chairperson of Gangadeen Inter College, Goora, and Bareilly. She takes
keen interest in the women welfare activities and educational expansion. She is running an Inter college in her area.

She always enjoyed the confidence of other party colleagues and their cooperation too. She visits her constituency frequently. She raised women-related issues: problems on the floor of the house. She has also been raising problems of her constituency especially those related to labour, women and children, health care and education. She feels that women should be more educated, which would help them to act effectively in the party organisation.

She advocates 50 percent reservation of seats for women in the different legislative and elected bodies since women constitutes almost 50 percent for the total population of the country. She emphasises that there should be no discrimination between men and women and that they should be treated equally in all realms of life.

6.5 Case Study-5:

Here is the case study of another women legislator from INC who belongs to the higher middle class family and has been Minister in the Centre and in the State as well. Smt. Sushila Raghuvir was born in 1921 in Allahabad. Her father Late Shri Pundit Kapil Dev was a famous lawyer of Allahabad High court. She studied in Allahabad.
University. She had also worked as lecturer of history in 1945-46 in Allahabad University. She was married in inter-caste in 1947 to Shri Mahendra Rohatigi, the founder of Hind Chemicals Limited. Her father in-law, Dr. Jawahar Lal Rohatigi was a Member Parliament and State minister in U.P Government. She has five children, two sons and three daughters.

Sushila Rohatigi was Minister in the Ninth U.P. Assembly in the Cabinet of Shri Vir Bahadur Singh and in the cabinet of Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari. She has been working on various posts of All India Mahila Congress Committee (AIMCC) since long. She was first elected to the Vidhan Sabha in the year 1962 on INC ticket from Kanpur-V constituency. She was coordinator of 28th AIMCC Session held in Kanpur.

She has been working for improvement of the living conditions of people in the slum areas. She is the Member of various social organisations and holding many posts. She is member of Ladies Craft College Management Committee, Hindu Orphanage House Management Committee, Federation of Child Welfare Kanpur, Rural women Association of U.P. Kanpur Congress Committee, Kanpur Municipal Committee, etc. and the Vice-Chairperson of District
Council of Child Welfare, Kanpur. She is the Co-ordinator of the committee of Bhartiya Vidhyu Bhawan Kala Kendra and Ravinder Memorial Committee. She has visited Shri Lanka in 1958 as one of the member of Representative Group to attend Asian-African Conference for Women in Colombo. She is author of the book entitled "Bapu Ne Kaha Tha" (Bapu had told) and has written many articles in various National Magazines. Her article " Daily- An Eye opener" was appreciated and admired by the people.

She has been associated with the social work right from her childhood days. There was no difficulty for her entering in politics because her father, her father-in-law and husband have been in the politics. She has been actively participating in the Women’s wing of Congress Party and worked as office-bearer of the same. She visited her constituency quite often and was involved in the day-to-day social activities in her areas.

She raised issues mostly related to the local problems particularly of Mill Mazdoors, problem of labour after closure of Jute Mill and Flour Mill in Kanpur, FCI Gorakhpur Fertilizer Plant Closure, Family Welfare, Child Health and Care, poor condition of roads, lack of infrastructures facilities in Kanpur, Hospital working conditions,
Teacher, College and School related problems, etc. She also moved no confidence motion against cabinet and actively participated in the debate of no confidence motion.

She is of the view that there should not be any distinction between women and men while allocating the party work, portfolio or any other important assignment, but feels that there is discrimination against women at every stage. She is concerned about this attitude of her senior party colleagues. Although she does not want any special privilege for women in assembly or parliament, but advocated for 30 percent reservation of seats for women in different political parties, state legislatures and in the parliament.

As already stated above, she has been Minister of state in the Centre for about a year and twice in the Ninth State Assembly in the cabinets of Shri Vir Bahadur Singh and Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari. She did not get an opportunity to choose the portfolio of her choice. Rather the party leader assigned it. According to her, she could have “perhaps” performed better had she been given a portfolio of her choice. But at the same time she confirmed that there is always a place for initiative as far as exercise of power is concerned. She also worked towards bringing changes in terms of policy decisions of the party.
6.6 Case Study-6:

Here is the case study of a woman who changed her party from Congress to Janata Party. She won on Congress tickets continuously three times, first time in 1974, second time in 1980 and third time in 1985 from Etawah constituency. She changed her party in 1989 election and contested election on Janata Party ticket supported by Mulayam Singh.

Smt. Sukhada Mishra was born in Daulatpur in an upper caste Brahmans family in 1947. She is 53 years of age now and was 33 years when elected first in 1974. Her father Shri Durdarshak Trivedi was well known social worker of Daulatpur, Etahwa district. She was married in 1957 at the age of 16 years to Shri Shashikant Mishra who later became an I.A.S officer. Her father has large holding of agricultural land and was known one of the biggest landlords of his village. She is a science graduate and has two children, a son and a daughter.

She was chairperson of various welfare committees during her husband’s posting as District Magistrate (DM). She used to attend and address many social gatherings, which became a source of inspiration for her to join active politics. She decided to join Congress party. Initially, her in-laws and husband as well resisted her idea of entering.
in active politics. As per her statement, her husband was susceptible of her success and had an apprehension that she may create problems for his career. But later, she was able to convince both her in-laws and husband.

She was political prisoner in Lucknow Jail for violation I.P.C. 151. She was Energy Minister in the cabinet of Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari and also was Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in the cabinet of Shri Mulayam Singh. She is a member of All India Social welfare Board and Child Welfare Board. She has been the Manager of International Centre of Studies and has visited many countries like America, England and France.

She is firm on her opinion that sycophancy is very much persistent in the Indian politics and particularly in congress party. According to her, she left the Congress party because she could not tolerate sycophancy. She admitted that though she still likes the ideology of Congress but she has to leave the party as none bothers about her views or sentiments at the top level of party whereas major decision are taken. She has no regret about her decision of changing her party from Congress to Janata and is happy about the things as they
have turned up in U.P. politics, particularly the fall of the INC in U.P. as she has correctly apprehended.

She is also in favour of the women reservation in all-political parties at various levels and in the government jobs also as her another women colleagues have expressed their views regarding the same. She thinks that the women are not taken seriously in the party organisation and also at the floor of the house. Similar statement was given one of the other women selected for the case study earlier. She thinks that it is a very bad attitude of the senior men colleagues.

She raised issues related to the local problems and the general development of infrastructural facilities in her constituency. She has never raised an issue related to the women specially as she thinks that it is a larger issue and should be handled at the Centre level. As stated above, she has also expressed her views, as earlier expressed by other women legislators that men and women should be treated at par. Neither should there be any discrimination nor any special privilege granted to women. But she could feel the indifferent and casual attitude of her male colleagues in the assembly towards women related issues. This she does not appreciate. She rather feels that all male legislators of the assembly should strongly support women related issues.
6.7 Case Study-7:

This is the case study of the oldest woman, 91 years of age now, who has been participating in the active politics since her younger days. She was the first woman elected as Member of U.P. Legislative Council in 1937 in pre-independence era. Smt. Kudasia Begum also known as Begum Azaz Rasul was born in 1909 in Lahore. She belongs to the Nabab family (Royal Family). Her father Nabab Sir Zulfikar Ali Khan was the famous Nabub of Hardoi. She was married in another Nabab family to Nabab Sayed Azaz Rasul in 1930 at the age of 20 years. She took active part in freedom struggle.

She had her education in Convent of Jesus and Mary, Shimla and Queen Mary's college Lahore. She has four children, two each sons and daughters. She had no difficulty in entering politics, in the pre-independence, when U.P. Legislative Council was established, she was a first woman to be elected for the same.

She was elected unopposed to U.P. Legislative Council and was Deputy Chairperson of U.P. Legislative Council from 1937 to 1939. She was consecutively elected to Legislative Council in pre-independence-era from 1937 to 1952. She was Member of the Indian Constituent Assembly in 1946-50 and was Leader of the Opposition,
U.P Legislative Council in 1950-52. She represented Assembly from Lucknow constituency continuously during 1957-68. She was also Member Parliament (MP), Rajya Sabha in 1952-56.

She was elected to Vidhan Sabha first time in the by-election in 1969 from Congress party ticket. She was Minister in 1969 in the Cabinets of Shri C.B. Gupta and in T. N. Singh cabinets. She resigned from cabinet in 1971. She was again elected in 1977 from Sandila constituency as an independent candidate and in 1980 and 1985 elections, she won on the Congress ticket.

She was Vice-President, Uttar Pradesh Women's Food Council and Indian Red Cross Society. She has been the Member of various committees, prominently included; Central and Executive Committee of Tuberculosis Association of India and St. John's Ambulance, Central Haz Committee, U. P. Children Committee, U.P. State Duffer in Fund Committee, U.P. Zamidari Abolition Committee, U.P. Medical and Public Health Reorganisation committee, Primary and Secondary Education Committee and U.P. Control Enquiry Committee.

She is quite old and has all old aged related ailments. She was quite co-operative otherwise during her interview. She strongly advocated about women reservation in the assemblies, parliament and
all local and government bodies. She wanted special provisions for women in assemblies and parliament so their participation can be increased. She stressed on the need of women education because she thinks that this is one area where women are lagging far behind. Particularly, she was sad about the poor education level among women belonging to the minority community. She opined that the lower representation of Muslim women in active politics was due to their lower education.

She said that her men colleagues were very cooperative to her in the assembly and in parliament as well. She has no experience of any indifference attitude of them any time, anywhere. She raised whole range of issues related to the local problems and in fact nothing specific to women related problems. She feels that this is one area wherein Central government intervention is needed. There is a need of a complete, concrete and comprehensive Gender Sensitisation programme at the National Level, according to her. She was sad about the increasing of atrocities against women and current incidents of rape along with other forms of public humiliation. She is also of the views that the empowerment process encompasses several mutually reinforcing components but begins with and is supported by economic
independence. Therefore, she wants women to be economically independent and this is, in her view, is only possible if women have knowledge and awareness of one's self and society, and of personal needs, health issues, legal rights, technological innovations, and availability of social and economic resources and how take advantage of them. This all can be learned once women are highly educated, according to her.

She came from the royal family and has no resistance from her parents or in-laws while entering into active politics. Her family was also an active politician. She was actively involved in the development of her constituency and she headed many local social organisations, which were active in the area of women and child health care and welfare. She get opened girls school in her Constituency Sandila. She was also given many assignments in her party, which she completed successfully.

She was initially elected Member, Constituent Assembly from Muslim League, United Province. She resigned in 1969 from the J. N. Singh cabinet owing some differences in the party ideology and contested election in 1974 as an independent candidate that she won. Later, she again joined INC in 1980 and won two consecutive elections.
in 1980 and 1985 on Congress tickets. She owes her successful political career to her husband and in-laws who cooperated her in rearing children. She admitted that without their cooperation, it would not have been possible for her to build a political career and reach where she is now. She feels that a woman free from household responsibilities can spare more time than a woman having family responsibilities. She seems to be satisfied in her life and enjoying her retirement.

7. Summing up of Case Studies:

All these case studies show that most of the women legislators came from middle class families and majority of them have political family background. They emerged as leaders through electoral process and many of them were elected to the assembly three-four times consecutively. This shows their popularity in their constituencies. They have to play dual roles, one as a leader in the public service and other as responsible wife and mother. This increases their burden and some feels that owing the family responsibilities, they are not able to do justice to their role of a politician.

All these case studies show the attitude of women legislators towards the role of women in politics, their status in the political party and their opinion and suggestions for certain remedial measures to be
undertaken in order to improve the role of women in political process. Most of them felt that women related issues are discussed casually and importance paid to such issue is marginal. This is primarily because women are not represented in large numbers in different elected bodies either at local level at state level or at national level. They therefore stressed the need for at least 30 per cent reservation for women in the various political forums and political bodies both at local and state levels.

Many of them suggested that women should be properly educated and their awareness should be increased so that they can effectively participate in the political process particularly in the decision making process. Many women legislators of our sample belong to families having to the political background, as already stated above, they have established themselves in the party organisation with the support of their parents or their spouses. Therefore, it suggest that women should be motivated, politically educated and should be encouraged to participate in the political process.

Although on the floor of House, they raise various issues but most of them seem to be more concerned with the issues related to the women. Irrespective of their party affiliation they seem to unite and
take a common stand on the floor of the house on women specific issues. Some of them also expressed their concern about the indifference attitude of their male colleagues in the assembly.