Appendix I

Interview Schedule

Legislative Process in an Indian State:
A Study of the Financial Committees of the
HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA, 1974-1984

This is a study of the Legislative Process in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha and the questionnaire has been framed to make an in depth study of the working of the financial committees of this House. Since you have been closely associated with the Haryana Legislature, I would seek your co-operation in filling this questionnaire:

1. On which of the following financial committees of the House have you served?
   a) The Public Accounts Committee.
   b) The Estimates Committee.
   c) The Committee on Public Undertakings.

2. Were you consulted before your election to this committee? Yes/No

3. Who approached you for your election to the committee?
   i)
   ii)
4. Did any member refuse to accept the membership of the committee? If so, what were the reasons?

5. a) Did any member resign from the committee during your term? Yes/No
   
   b) If yes, what do you think was the main reason for his/her resignation?

6. What is the relative importance of the following factors for getting the membership of the committee?

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<th>Factor</th>
<th>Considerable</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>A Little</th>
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<td>a) Legislative Experience.</td>
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<td>b) Educational Record</td>
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<td>c) Rural and Urban Balance</td>
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<td>d) Agriculture and Industrial</td>
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<td>e) Role of leadership</td>
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<td>f) Caste</td>
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<td>g) Religious considerations</td>
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<td>h) Age-group</td>
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<td>i) Specify, if any other</td>
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7. Did women get fair representation in the committees?
8. Should the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings, Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee be ex-officio members in the other financial committees as practiced in Tamil Nadu?

9. What do you think have been the criteria for nominating Chairmen of the committees?

10. a) In your opinion, from which party should the Chairmen of the committees be nominated:
   - Ruling Party/
   - Opposition Party

   b) What reasons do you assign for your view?

11. To what extent has the functioning of a committee been affected by having its Chairman from the ruling party?

12. a) Do you think that the Chairmen of these committees should be given the status of a Cabinet Minister Without Portfolio?

   b) If so, what reasons would you ascribe for this?

13. Is the numerical strength of the committees enough for representing different political viewpoints?

14. a) Are different political parties represented in the committees in proportion to their strength in the House?
b) If no, which parties get over-representation and why?

15. What should be the terms of the committees in your opinion and why?

16. During your term, did your committee appoint any sub-committee? Yes/No

17. If yes, what factors/considerations necessitated the appointment of a sub-committee?

18. Did the sub-committee work satisfactorily?

19. Whether the work done by the sub-committee found separate mention in the report?

20. To whom was the sub-committee accountable?

21. Is it a useful practice to appoint a sub-committee of a financial committee? Yes/No

22. How regular have been the committee meetings?

23. What was the average duration of the meetings of the committee of which you were a member?

24. How many members attended its meetings?

25. Was the committee sufficiently staffed?
26. Besides the members of the committee, who else attends its meetings?

27. Do the members take interest in attending its meetings and its working?  
   Yes/No

28. Are the committee meetings really confidential?

29. What would be the effect if the meetings are held in public?

30. Is it a useful practice to summon Government witnesses before the committees?  
   Yes/No

31. a) Did the departmental representatives come fully prepared?
      
   b) Did they try to convince the committee?

32. Do you think the evidence given before the committee should be presented to the House?  
   Yes/No

33. What functions were performed by the committees of which you were a member?

34. Would you like to assign any other function to this committee? If so, what other functions? (Please specify).

35. Did the committee perform its functions successfully?  
   Yes/No

36. a) Do you think the committee system has become dysfunctional?
   
   b) If yes, what do you think was the main reason for this?
37. a) How did the committee function during your tenure?
   i) Very well.
   ii) So so.
   iii) Badly.

   b) What reasons would you ascribe for this functioning?

38. Is there any need for making the committee more powerful?

39. Did the committee really act as a watchdog? What was its utility?

40. Should the committee continue to exist?

41. During discussions in the committee meetings, did the members take their stand according to their political affiliations?

42. Whether the members cast their votes on party lines?

43. How should the issues and problems before the committees, such as the following be dealt with?
   a) Term of the committees;
   b) Facilities for the members;
   c) Adjournment of the meetings for want of the quorum;
d) Failure of departments in submitting the requisite material in time;

e) Speeding up and streamlining the working of the committee;

f) Unanimous decisions amongst the members for attaining the objectives of the committee;

g) Abnormal delay in initiating action against the officers responsible for financial irregularities, embezzlements, defaults etc.

h) Curbing such harmful delays and eliminating the circumstances in which the delinquent officers/officials not only escaped punishment but also got promotion or got premature retirement;

i) Speedy implementation of outstanding recommendations.

44. Do you think the recommendations made by the committees were effective, less effective or ineffective?

45. a) Do you think that your committee transacted its business and tackled various issues that came before it more seriously than the Assembly?

b) If so, what reasons would you ascribe for this?

46. Did the committee take an expert view on the problems before it?

47. Who takes more initiative in the deliberation?
48. How were decisions usually taken in the committee -
   a) Unanimously
   b) By majority
   c) Chairman directed
   d) Specify, if any other

49. Could the committee effectively impose its decisions upon the Government departments?
   i) in all cases
   ii) in some cases
   iii) in very few cases.

50. Whether the committee was so constituted and equipped as to take suitable decisions on matters coming before it for consideration?

51. Whether or not the governmental administration gives consideration to speedy implementation of recommendations?

52. How much time was taken by various departments in the implementation of the recommendations?

53. How much time was given under the rules for implementing the recommendations?

54. Did the time vary in the implementation of recommendations, if so, was the variation justified?
55. To what extent did the recommendations expose irregularities, illegalities, embezzlements, frauds and misappropriations of public funds?

56. Whether the recommendations become rules, and reports are recognised as case law relating to various questions of public accounts?

57. Whether the reports of the committees should be discussed on the floor of the House?

58. Whether the existence of the committees acts as a caution for the Ministers and heads of departments?

59. How would you rank the financial committees of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha in order of importance?

60. Whether the committees have been doing 'the expected job' or do they serve merely as smoke screens to dupe the legislators?

61. Any other information, you would like to offer?

Kindly Indicate Your:

1. Constituency:

2. Age:

3. Religion:

4. Caste:
5. Place of birth:
6. Place of residence:
7. Tehsil:
8. District:
9. Occupation:
10. Property: Urban/Rural:
11. Education (highest examination passed):
12. How long did you serve on the P.A.C./E.C./C.P.U.?
13. On which committees other than the financial committees of the House have you served?
14. Did you change your political party at any stage? If so, kindly give details: