

Latest Press Release
Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

POLITICAL WEATHER REPORT

Results released on: November 17, 1985



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THE GALLUP POLL

November 17, 1985

HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights of the latest Gallup political weather report. The report has been prepared by Gallup Pakistan on the basis of the statistical surveys conducted with several thousand scientifically selected households spread all over the country and it includes most up to date information collected from a survey conducted in the last week of October .

EIGHT AMENDMENT BILL

51% of the respondents in the Gallup poll in the urban areas of the country could correctly identify indemnity bill. Apparently these people had fairly set opinions. 28% said the amendment was justified, while 19% thought it was unjustified. They also took sides with the OPG (Official Parliamentary Group) and IPG (Independent Parliamentary Group). 25% said their sympathies were with the IPG, while 31% favored the OPG position.

Despite various concessions given by the government on the Eight Amendment Bill, there was a strong impression that the IPG had to give in .OPG appeared to have carried its wishes. Even a majority of the supporters of IPG believed that OPG came out as winner in the final negotiations. 43% of the sample thought OPG had come out as a winner, 7% thought IPG was the winner, whereas 21% took it to be a draw and 29% gave no opinion.

PERFORMAMNCE OF THE ASSEMBLIES

About a quarter (26%) of the public thought the assemblies were mere rubbers stamps. But a slightly higher number believed the assemblies enjoyed a great deal of authority (30%) or at least a limited degree of authority (25%).

On the whole the performance of this assemblies received a mixed rating 37% regarded its performance as good, 13% regarded it as bad while 33% said the performance had been reasonable or modest.

PRESIDENCY AND PRIMERSHIP

The survey showed a fairly strong support for the ethos of a Parliamentary System. Prime Minister, the head of the government enjoyed greater authority compared with the President. 55% thought the Prime Minister should be more powerful while less than half as many as these said that the President should be more powerful 25%.

Judging by standard that the Prime Minister should be more powerful than the President, a great many people were disappointed to find that the Prime Minister did not enjoy a position of supremacy. 44% thought Prime Minister Junjeo did not wield much authority as opposed to 36% who said he was quite powerful. Ones who believed Prime Minister Junjeo as wielding a fair amount of authority, were largely those who as a principle thought that the President should be more powerful.

The preference of Prime Minister to be more powerful than the President appeared to be related to the public's notions about their offices and not their present incumbents. They favored a greater role for the PM's office compared to the President by a 2:1 margin in favor of PM's office. However when the same sample was asked to express their preference between the two leaders: Zia and Junejo, Zia came out much more popular, by nearly 4:1 in his favour.

THE DEBATES ON POLITICAL PARTIES

50% of the respondents argue in favor of the existence of political parties, 23% argue against their existence while 27% gave no opinion. The level of interest in the issue of political parties shows a clear correlation with the level of education of the respondents. Only 15% of college graduates expressed no opinion on this subject, contrasted with 39% of the illiterates.

47% regard PM's performance as good or very good as opposed to 11% who regard it as bad or very bad. Approximately one third (32%) of the respondents say the performance has been reasonable or modest, while 10% do not express any opinion. This is an improvement over the last six months. In a survey conducted in May 1985, with a roughly comparable sample, the approval rate for the PM was 29 %.

OUT STANDING LEGISLATURE

Hajji Saif Ullah a relatively obscure member of national assembly from Rahim Yaar Khan emerged as an out standing legislature during the first six months of the new parliament. He appeared to enjoy a fairly wide recognition in all the provinces while other members enjoyed prominence and recognition in the geographical vicinity of their own constituencies. In response to a question: among the legislators who do you think has performed the best? 19% named Haji Saif Ullah.

DIRECT TALKS WITH KABUL

28% of the respondents supported direct talks, 66% opposed them and 6% gave no opinion.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

More than one third of the Pakistanis believe that indo-Pakistan relations are deteriorating. Among these 38% believe that Indo-Pakistan ties were deteriorating during Rajiv's government beyond what they had been during the Indira's period. 25% say that there is no difference between two periods while 33% saw a tendency towards improvement.

This is an excerpt from a survey conducted a year ago, immediately after the assassination of the Prime Minister Indra Gandhi. At that time 41% of the respondents thought the chances of war had declined as a result of Mrs.Gandhi's death. Only 12% had then thought that the chances of war had increased.