

VOTING PREFERENCES IN STATE VIS-A-VIS NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNDER A FEDERAL SYSTEM : A CASE STUDY OF HARYANA (INDIA)

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ABSTRACT : Elections to the Regional and National legislatures under federal political systems represent two somewhat parallel areas of political contest so that it is expected that the nature of voting in the two sets of elections should be qualitatively different. The precise nature of this difference has remained a completely neglected theme in electoral geography. In this paper this problem has been analyzed with reference to a case study of Haryana (India). The result lends support to the hypothesis of differential perception in voting between the two levels of electoral contests, and underlines that while in the case of parliamentary elections voting preferences may generally be influenced by secular considerations (so that socio-economic factors register higher explanatory values), in respect of elections to the Regional Assemblies local level issues and social - cultural divisions in the electorate tend to dominate voting choice (so that socio-economic factors register lower explanatory values).

A special feature of the liberal democratic process in the countries governed under federal constitutions relates to simultaneous existence of two somewhat parallel areas of electoral contest - one for the regional legislatures and the other for the national parliament. Since the governments at each of the two levels are allotted different but very important sets of governmental functions, and since each level of government enjoys powers for autonomous decision making (even though the powers of the national legislature are more equal than those of the legislative houses in the constituent states), it is expected that electoral preferences in voting in the elections to the regional legislatures vis-a-vis those for the national parliament may be considerably at variance. The precise nature of the difference in electoral preference between the two sets of elections has so far remained a completely

neglected area of electoral studies. This paper is intended as a beginning in the direction of fulfilling this gap through a case study of a set of eight different elections in Haryana (India) - four for the state Assembly and four for the Parliament.

THE STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

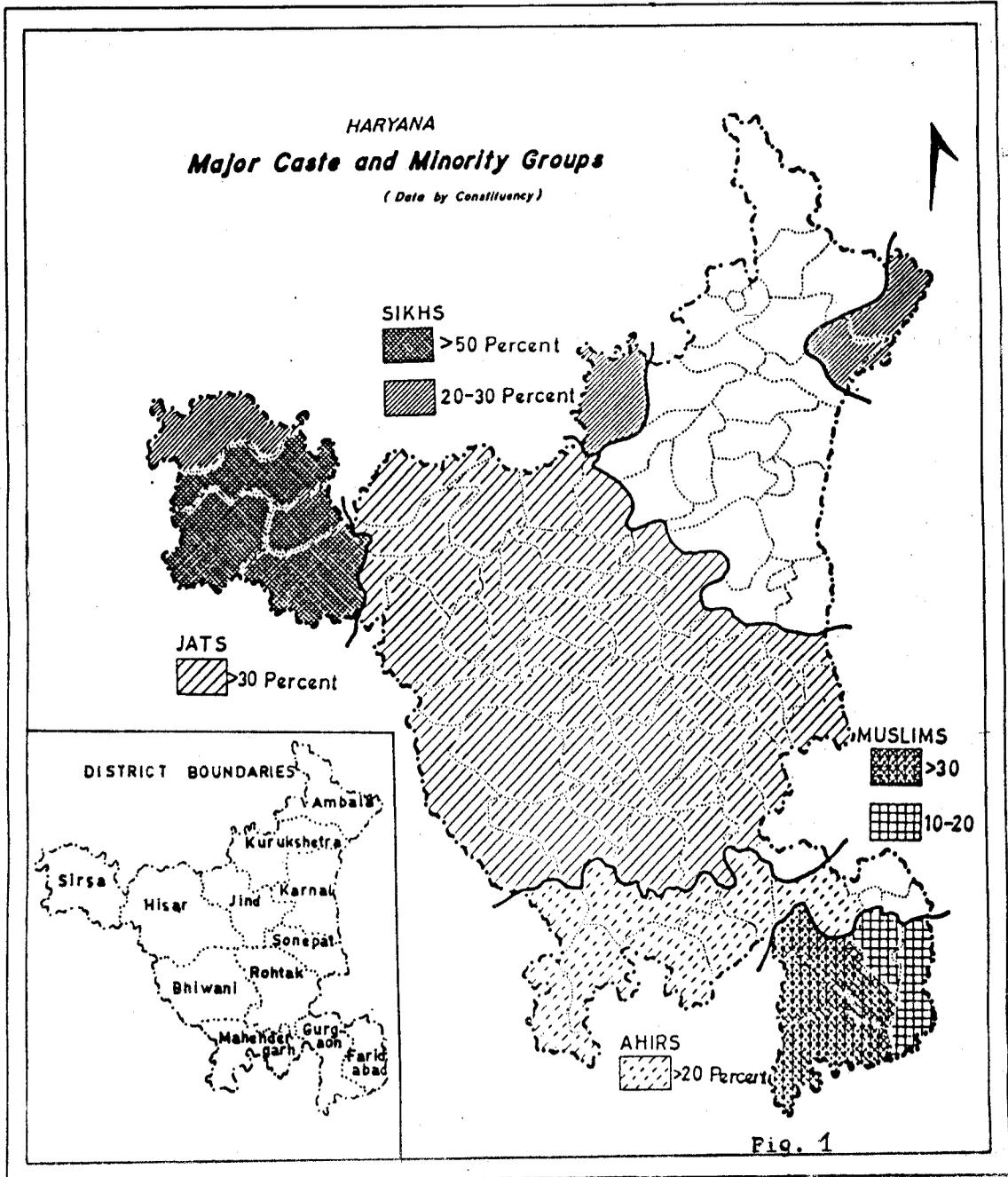
India is a federal democracy with autonomous states functioning within an overall constitutional set up guaranteed by the national government. Thus, there are in India two somewhat parallel and coordinate levels of political decision making - one in each of the constituent states and the other at the centre. There are, therefore, two different sets of electoral contests - one for the Vidhan Sabha (the state Assemblies) to recruit political elites to supervise and govern the affairs of the respective states, and the other for the Lok

Sabha (the national Parliament) to recruit political elites to supervise All-India Administration, arbitrate in interstate disputes, and to look after the country's external security and international relationships. (Wheare 1963, Dikshit 1975).

India's constitution has laid down a detailed scheme of division of powers between the centre and the states. Under this scheme of division of powers, the states have power to frame laws for governance in important fields of governmental functioning including local self-government, public order, police, public health and sanitation, communication and transport, agriculture, rights over land (including land tenure and revenue on agricultural land) forests, fisheries and mines, trade and commerce, taxes on agricultural income and mineral rights, excise duties on specified goods, and collection of taxes on entry of goods in local areas, taxes on vehicles, luxuries, professions and advertisements (except newspaper advertisements), and collection of stamp duties on documents. The Union government has wide-ranging powers of legislation and administration. These include defence, foreign affairs, foreign policy, banking, currency and coinage, and all-India service systems (posts and telegraphs, communications and transport etc.). The Union Government also has powers to collect taxes on most of the more important sources of revenue (e.g., custom duties, corporation taxes, capital value assets, receipts from railways, posts and telegraph, broadcasting, and industrial and commercial undertakings of the central government (Basu, 1982, pp. 273-318). The wide-ranging powers of the central government have made India's political system a kind of unitary federalism so that while the states enjoy substantial autonomy of action and control substantial sources of revenue, the Constitution has clearly laid down that in matters pertaining to centre-state relations the centre is more equal than the

states (Basu, 1982, p. 42; Dikshit, 1975, pp. 118-120; Sawyer, 1969, pp. 46-47). The latter may, in times of emergency, be fully subordinated by the centre.

In view of this overall political-administrative set up the day to day life of the country's inhabitants is influenced by two sets of political authorities-regional and federal-functioning simultaneously and in an enmeshed fashion (Dikshit, 1975, Chap. I. See also Anderson, 1960; Livingston, 1968; Vile 1961 and Elazar 1964). Under these conditions, it is logical to expect that the electorate should be guided by different sets of interests, objectives and expectations while casting votes for selecting members of the state Assembly *vis-a-vis* the selection of representatives to the national parliament. While in respect of the Vidhan Sabha elections the voter may often times prefer to cast his vote in favour of a political party or pressure group that in his view is likely to be more effective in protecting the state's perceived regional interests, at the time of exercising franchise for the Lok Sabha elections an enlightened electorate may often times be motivated to give preference to an all-India party having a proven track record, one that can enforce rule of law and contribute to the maintenance of economic stability and national security, and one that can ensure favourable foreign policy orientation more conducive to national growth and prosperity. Under the conditions imposed by the country's federal political structure it is logical to expect that while the electorate may favour a regional party (having a reasonable image for efficiency) in elections to the Vidhan Sabha, its vote in the Lok Sabha elections may often times go in favour of an all-India party having the preferred national perspective and possessing a viable all-India support base, since only such a party can have a fair chance of heading the national government (or at least to function as a formidable opposition).



THE METHOD OF APPROACH

Since the objective of this paper is to present a comparative analysis of electoral behaviour in the state-level (Assembly) elections vis-a-vis all-India elections for the na-

tional parliament, for the purposes of this analysis only such elections are meaningful that were held simultaneously both for the state Assembly as well as the Parliament, since only in such cases can valid compari-

Table 1.**List of Selected Socio-Economic Variables**

1.	DENP	-	Density of Population
2.	URBP	-	Urban Population
3.	SEXR	-	Sex-Ratio
4.	SCPO	-	Scheduled Caste Population
5.	LIPO	-	Literate Population
6.	PEWP	-	Percent Workers to Total Population
7.	AGWO	-	Agricultural Workers
8.	AGLA	-	Agricultural Labourers
9.	WOMC	-	Workers engaged in Manufacturing and construction
10.	WOOA	-	Workers engaged in Other Activities\
11.	NEAS	-	Net Area Sown
12.	PEIA	-	Percent Irrigated Area
13.	PEHP	-	Percent Hindu Population
14.	PESP	-	Percent Sikh Population
15.	PEMP	-	Percent Muslim Population
16.	NTTA	-	Number of Tractors per thousand Agriculturists.
17.	NTUA	-	Number of Tubewells per thousand Agriculturists
18.	SSLH	-	Size of Land Holdings 0 to 5 Acres as Percentage of number land holdings
19.	MSLH	-	Size of land holdings 5 to 10 acres as Percentage of the total number of holdings
20.	LSLH	-	Size of Land Holdings larger than 10 Acres as percentage of the total number of holding.
21.	UFHA	-	Use of Fertilizers per hundred acres.

sons in electoral ecology between the state and national levels be made. There is a difficulty, however. Elections to the Vidhan Sabhas and the Lok Sabha are no longer linked. Thus, with a view to meet the condition of simultaneity we have paired even such Assembly and parliamentary elections which, though not held simultaneously, were held at a relatively short interval of time, provided in the course of the intervening period the overall political and economic climate had remained substantially stable. This study is therefore restricted to the following four pairs of elections :

- (i) 1967 Assembly and 1967 Parliamentary Elections;
- (ii) 1972 Assembly and 1971 Paraliamentary Elections;
- (iii) 1977 Assembly and 1977 Parliamentary Elections; and
- (iv) 1982 Assembly and 1980 Parliamentary elections.

The study is confined to examination of differential electoral behaviour in respect of the single most important political party (and the only constant) of the Haryana electoral

scene, i.e., the Indian National Congress (later the Congress-I). Electoral performance of the party for each of the two sets of electoral contests has been analyzed with a view:

- i) to identifying the main areas of the party's electoral support;
- ii) to assess as to what extent the party's electoral support is regionally concentrated or uniformly spread;
- iii) to determine the degree to which areal distribution of the party's electoral support is consistent over time.

The patterns so identified have been explained in relation to a selected set of 20 socio-economic variables (Table 1) which have been factor analyzed and grouped into socio-economic contexts of significantly interrelated variables. This has been accomplished by measuring the degree to which the relevant socio-economic contexts had explained spatial variations in the levels of voting in support of the Congress party.

With a view to facilitate interpretation of the contexts, factors having eigen-values higher than unity have been rotated to normal varimax position. Each of the variables has a loading on each of the factors. The loading is in the form of correlation co-efficient which indicates the degree of association between the given variable and the relevant factor. Higher the loading, the higher is the degree of association between the two. A negative loading, on the other hand, indicates inverse relationship between the variable and the relevant factor.

FACTORIAL ECOLOGY OF HARYANA

The principal axes factor analysis has yielded eight rotated factors. These together explain 85.8 per cent variation in the data set. Six of these factors alone explain 78 per cent variance. As such, the remaining two factors (which

together explain only 8 per cent variance) have been dropped out of consideration in the discussion that follows. Table 2 shows the rotated factor matrix for each of the 21 variables. The first factor is named the "Urban Developmental context." It explains 29 per cent variation in the data set. Variables showing high positive loading on this factor are:

Literate Population (LIPO)	+ 0.824
Workers engaged in other activities (WOOA)	+ 0.910
Density of Population (DENP)	+ 0.519
Urban Population (URBP)	+ 0.650

As contrasted to the above, the agricultural workers (AGWO) variable and the net area sown variable (NEAS) have recorded high negative values of -0.901, and -0.604 respectively.

The second factor, called the "Farm Size Context", has explained 15.30 per cent variance in the data. Only the following two variables have recorded high positive loadings on this factor.

Size of land holdings between 5 to 10 acres (MSLH)	+ 0.938
Size of land holdings larger than 10 acres (LSLH)	+ 0.749

The "small size land holdings" (holdings less than 5 acres in size) variable has recorded a high negative loading of -0.921.

The third factor, called the "Agricultural Developmental Context", has explained 12.3 per cent variance in the data. The following factors show significant positive loadings on this factor: Use of fertilizers (UPHA) + 0.955

Number of tractors per thousand	
Agriculturists (NTTA)	+ 0.936
percent irrigated area (PEIA)	+ 0.584
Agricultural labourers (AGLA)	+ 0.489

Table 2.

**Rotated Factor Matrix for the
Selected Socio-economic variables**

S. No.	Variables	Factors					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1.	DENP	.51909	-	-	-	-	-
2.	URBP	.65011	-	-	-	-	-
3.	SEXR	-	-	-	-	.98337	-
4.	SCPO	-	-	-	-	-	.92573
5.	LIPO	.82498	-	-	-	-	-
6.	PEWP	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	AGWO	-.90115	-	-	-	-	-
9.	WOMC	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	WOOA	.91096	-	-	-	-	-
11.	NEAS	-.60413	-	-	-	-	-
12.	PEIA	-	-	.58420	-	-	-
13.	PEHP	-	-	-	-.91431	-	-
14.	PESP	-	-	-	.88656	-	-
15.	PEMP	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	NTTA	-	-	-.93621	-	-	-
17.	NTUA	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	SSLH	-	-	.92153	-	-	-
19.	MSLH	-	.93866	-	-	-	-
20.	LSLH	-	.74922	-	-	-	-
21.	UFHA	-	-	.95514	-	-	-

Table 3.

Correlation Matrix Showing Relationships between the Six Contexts

Contexts	I	II	III	IV	V	VII
I Urban Developmental	1.000					
II Farm-Size	-.6632	1.000				
III Agricultural Dvelopmental	-.1545	.1852	1.000			
IV Religious	.2982	-.6045	-.4091	1.000		
V Sex Ratio.	.2641	-.1059	-.4890	.479	1.000	
VI Scheduled Caste Population	-.5300	.5752	.7110	-.6598	-.5163	1.000

The fourth factor, called the "Religious Context", explains 8.8 per cent variance in the data. On this factor while the "percent Sikh population" (PESP) viable shows a high positive loading of +0.886; the "percent Hindu population" (PEHP) shows a strong negative loading of -0.914.

The fifth factor, called the "Sex Ratio Context", explains 7.1 per cent variance in the data. Only the "sex ratio" variable (SEXR) loads on this factor, the loading being + 0.983. The sixth factor, called the "Scheduled Caste Context", explains 5 per cent variance. Only one variable - scheduled caste population shows a loading on this factor, the value being +0.925.

Table 3 -depicts the correlation matrix showing inter-factor relationships between the six socio-economic contexts. From this table we note that the urban Developmental Context has a strong negative relationship with the farm Size Context as well as the Agricultural development Context. The reason is obvious : as the degree of urbanization and industrialization increases the size of land holdings decreases. Although the urban developmental context is positively related to the Religious and the Sex-Ratio contexts, the relationship is rather weak. On the other hand, the relationship between Urban Developmental Context and the Scheduled Caste Context is pronouncedly negative.

The Farm Size Context has a weak positive correlation with the Agricultural Development context but a fairly strong positive correlation with the Scheduled Caste Context. The correlation between the Farm Size Context and the Religious Context is strongly negative, while its relationship with the Sex-Ratio Context is weakly negative.

The Agricultural Developmental Context is fairly negatively correlated with both the Religious and the Sex-Ratio contexts, but its relationship with the Scheduled Caste context is strongly positive.

COMPARATIVE ECOLOGY OF CONGRESS IN ASSEMBLY VIS-A-VIS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS :

Ever since the birth of Haryana as a separate state in 1967, the Indian National Congress has been the most dominant political party in the state. Congress had ruled Haryana without a break from 1967 to 1977. It had lost the electoral battle (rather badly) to the opposition combine, floated under the banner of the Janata Party in the 1977 election following revocation of the national emergency imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

However, the party bounced back to power soon thereafter following its victory in the 1980 parliamentary election in Haryana held in 1982 and had ruled the state for the full term ending in 1987. Being the party of the struggle for national freedom under the stewardship of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress party in India has remained part of the common man's political conscience for far too long a period to be assailed easily; it may be down but can never be out. This historical legacy has made the Congress party a mass based aggregative party which draws electoral support from every caste, community, and linguistic-religious group-albeit in varying degrees at different times (Weiner 1989, Chap.7).

1967 Assembly vis-a-vis 1967 Parliamentary Election

In the 1967 Assembly election in Haryana the Congress party had contested all the 81 seats and had polled, on an average, 41.48 percent votes per seat. Inter-constituency variation in the party's vote had ranged between 22.97 and 65.96 percent. In 13 constituencies its vote share had been lower than 30 percent. In a total number of 21 constituencies the party had polled above 50 percent vote; in only two of these the party's vote share was above 60 percent. Standard deviation in the distribution of the party's vote was 10.31 percent

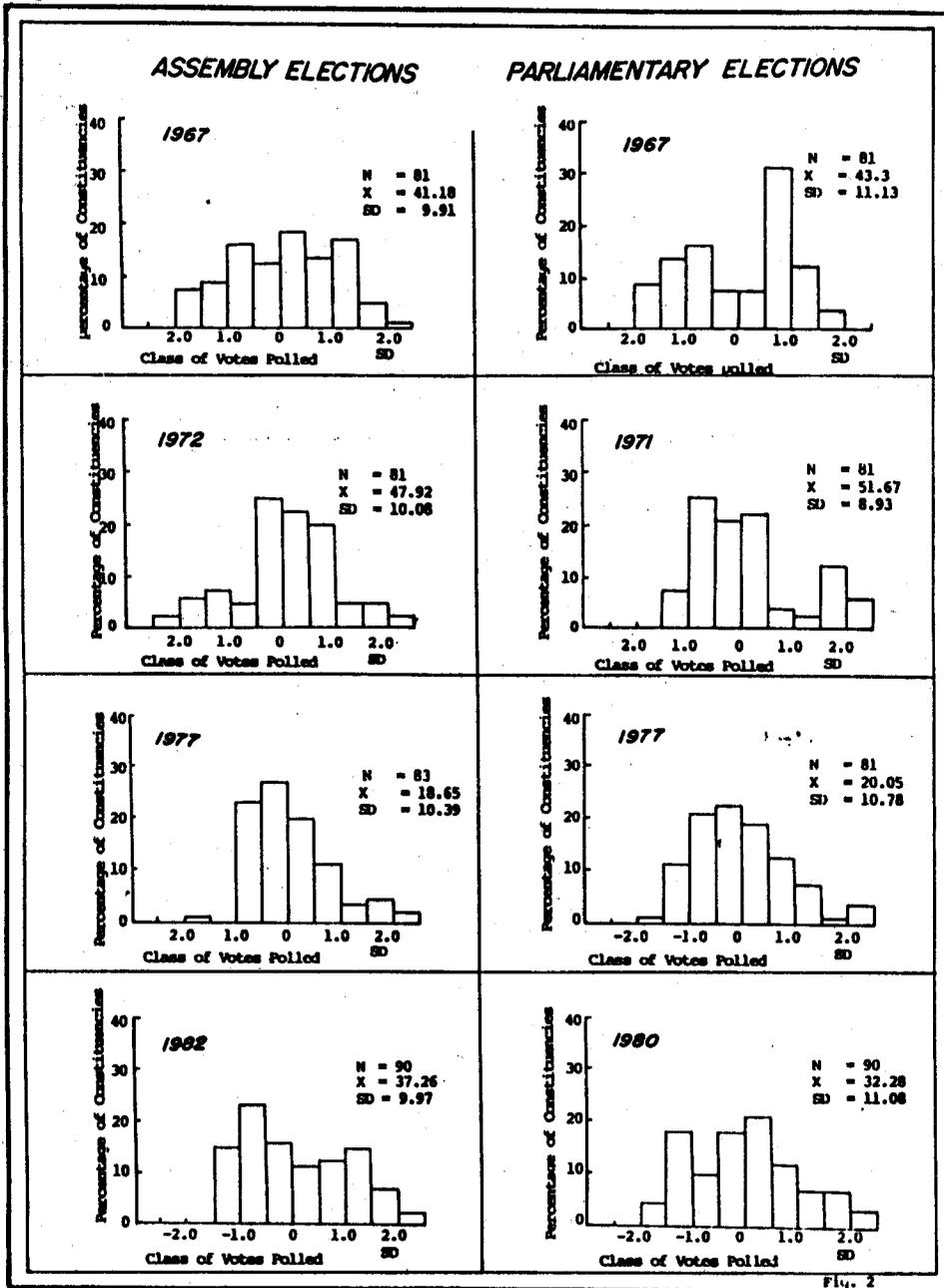


Fig.2 Frequency Distribution of Percentages of Votes Polled by the Congress Party in Assembly vis-a-vis Parliamentary Elections in Haryana.

whereas the coefficient of variation in the distribution of the party's vote stood at 23.77 percent. This indicated considerable areal variation in the spatial pattern of electoral

support for the party (Fig.2). In the 1967 parliamentary election the Congress party had contested all the seats, and had won the election in Haryana polling on

an average 43.3 percent vote per Assembly segment. Inter-assembly segment variation in the party's vote ranged between 22.07 and 62.40 percent. In a total number of 35 Assembly segments the party had polled above 50 percent vote (in three of these the party's vote share was higher than 60 percent). Only in 13 Assembly segments the party's vote share was lower than 30 percent. Standard deviation of the party's vote distribution was 11.13 percent; and the coefficient of variation 25.7 percent, indicating considerable variation in the spatial pattern of electoral support for the party.

A comparative view of spatial patterns of support for the Congress party in the assembly vis-a-vis the Parliamentary elections of 1967 (Fig.3) shows that the areal distribution of electoral support in the two sets of elections were considerably at variance. In the parliamentary election while the party got high to very high support in western, eastern, and central parts of Haryana, in the northern and southern parts of the state the electorate was much less enthusiastic in its support for the party. In the Assembly election the spatial pattern of electoral support for the party was not as well defined. The constituencies recording high as well as low support for the party were randomly distributed across the length and breadth of the state. Contrasts between the spatial patterns of electoral support between the two sets of elections were, however, clearly visible: in the north whereas Ambala city, Ambala Cantt. and the Central parts of Ambala district had given high support to the Congress party in the Assembly election, in the parliamentary election the degree of support for the party in this region was of a much lower order. Likewise, whereas the eastern parts of Rohtak district (bordering on the national capital on the west) had recorded high to very high support for the party in the parliamentary contest, in the Assembly elec-

tion electoral support for the party in this region was of a much lower order. The districts of Kurukshetra and Karnal lying outside the core Jat region (see Fig.1) had given high support for the Congress party in the parliamentary election; in the Assembly election, however, several of these constituencies gave low electoral support to the party. Except for areas in the Bhiwani district and a few isolated constituencies elsewhere, the Jat belt had in general, been indifferent to the Congress party in the Assembly contest. The picture was very different in the parliamentary contest. This time all the different Assembly segments bordering on Delhi recorded very high support for the Congress Party. However, electoral support for the party had considerably lowered down in the Bhiwani region. In the parliamentary election the Congress party had polled reasonably well in the Ahirwal region (settled by the prosperous community of Ahirs or Yadavas and comprising the whole of Mohindargarh district and parts of Gurgaon) but the Meo Muslim dominated region in the districts of Gurgaon and Faridabad had by and large rejected the Congress party. The picture had been very different in the Assembly contest in which several constituencies in the Meo region had recorded high to very high support in favour of the Congress party. Only in the Assembly segments in western Haryana comprising the districts of Sirsa and Hissar, and in the Narwana Tehsil of Jind, were the patterns of support for the Congress party in the two sets of electoral contests largely similar.

The well defined patterns of electoral support for the Congress party in the parliamentary contest, and the absence of any clearly defined spatial pattern of support in the Assembly contest may, in part, be accounted for by the fact that in the case of the recruitment of representatives for the state legislature, caste affiliation and other local/ regional interests

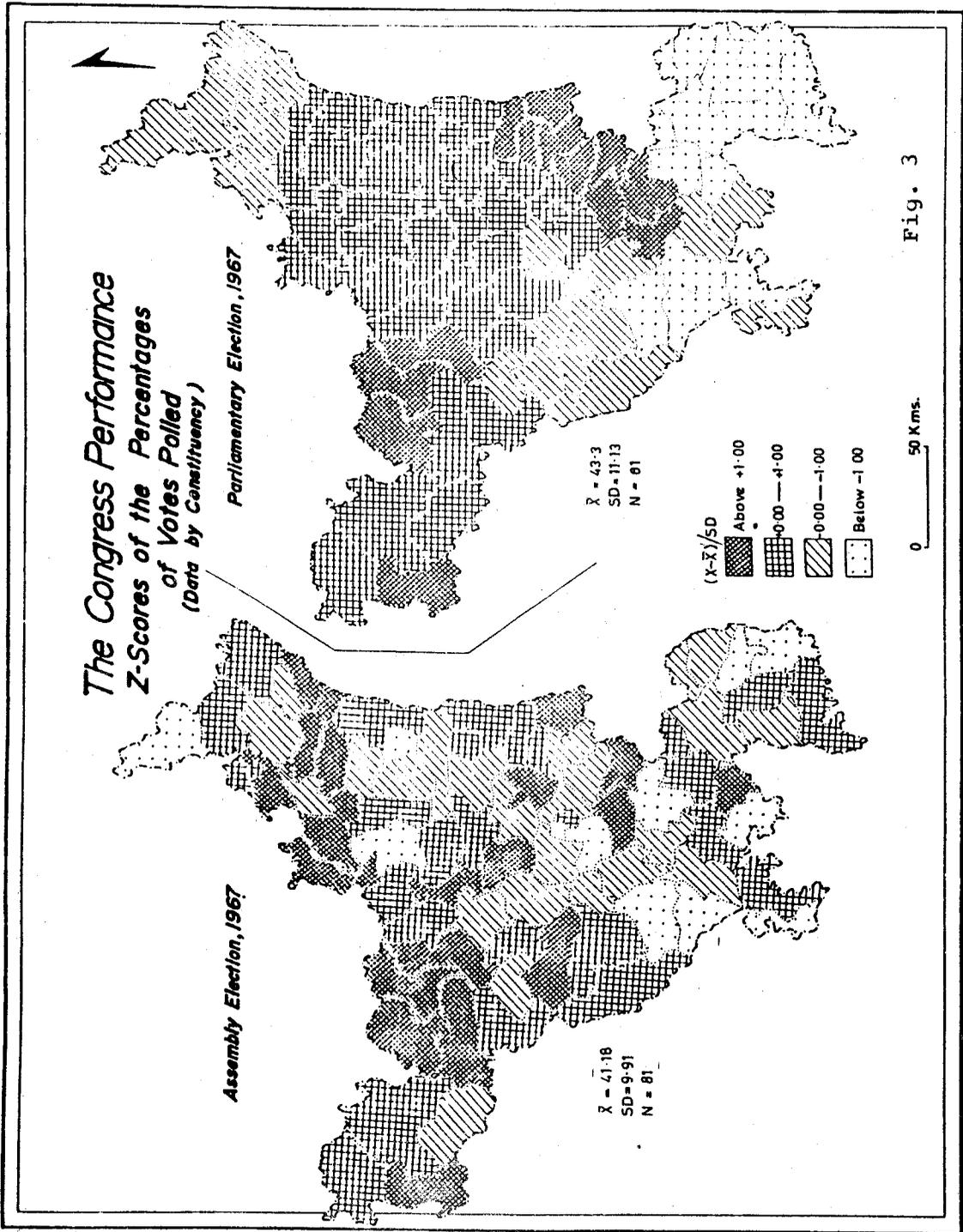


Fig. 3

and conflicts play a more pronounced role in influencing voting choices. This would often times lead to considerable differences in the patterns of voting even between such constituencies whose political and economic characteristics are similar. Differences in caste and sub caste composition may quite often become the critical element in voter choice. To take an example, Beri and Bahadurgarh constituencies of Rohtak district (a most important component of the core Jat region) had given very high support to the Congress party in the 1967 Assembly election whereas the adjacent constituency of Jhajjar in the same district, having almost similar socio-economic base, had given very low electoral support to the party. The position was entirely different in the parliamentary contest—this time all the three constituencies had voted overwhelmingly in support of the Congress party.

Explanation

R^2 values of the regression exercise in respect of the six different contexts and the combined context of all the six of them (significant at 0.01 level) are as follows:

	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_{1-6}
Assembly Election	0.000	0.043	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.031	0.093
Parliamentary Election	0.020	0.170	0.075	0.005	0.000	0.097	0.325

As the above figures show, excepting the farm size context (X_2) in the Parliamentary election, none of the other five contexts had displayed any significant role in influencing preferences in voting in support of the Congress party. This was largely owing to the aggregative nature of the Congress which, as a general rule, draws support from all sections of society even though the actual complexion of this support may vary from election to election (Dikshit and Sharma 1982; Brass 1966, 1975). The overall explanation of 9.3 per cent

for the 1967 Assembly election and 32.5 per cent for the 1967 parliamentary contest would indicate that, on the whole, socio-economic factors had exerted a more decisive influence on voting preferences in the election to the parliament than was the case in respect of the Assembly contest.

1972 Assembly Election vis-a-vis 1971 Parliamentary Election

In the 1972 Assembly election the Congress party had registered a significant increase in its vote share. The party's average vote share per seat had risen to 47.92 per cent. This was in line with the general trend across the country following the immense popularity that had accrued to Mrs Indira Gandhi for her positive role in the liberation of Bangladesh. This time again the Congress had contested election in all the 81 Assembly segments. Inter-constituency variation in the party's vote share had ranged between 26.03 and 79.58. In a total number of 33 constituencies the party had polled over 50 per cent vote - in 7 constituencies the party's vote share was above 60 per cent (in two of these the vote share was over

70 per cent). Only in 4 constituencies had the party polled less than 30 per cent vote. Standard deviation in the distribution of the party's vote was 10.08 per cent and the coefficient of variation 21.03 per cent. This indicated considerable spatial variation in the intensity of electoral support for the party.

In the parliamentary election of 1971 the Congress party's average vote share per Assembly segment had risen to 51.67 per cent. Inter-Assembly segment variation in the party's

vote share had ranged between 40.1 and 74.20 per cent. In as many as 14 Assembly segments the party's vote share had been above 60 per cent (in five of these above 70 per cent). In only 14 Assembly segments the party's vote share was less than 50 per cent. Standard deviation in the party's vote was 8.93 per cent, and coefficient of variation 17.28 per cent. Owing to Mrs. Indira Gandhi's unprecedented popularity spatial variation in the distribution of electoral support for the Congress party had now been substantially reduced.

A comparative view of spatial variations in the intensity of voting in support of Congress in 1972 Assembly vis-a-vis the 1971 parliamentary contest (Fig. 4) reveals the lack of congruence in the overall patterns even though, unlike in the case of the preceding pair of the 1967 elections, this time there was absence of any great contrasts between the distribution patterns for the two contests. The party had been widely supported all over Haryana in both the contests so that in each of them the average vote share of the party per Assembly segment was above 40 per cent.

Explanation

R^2 values of the regression exercise in respect of the electoral performance of the Congress party in the two sets of elections on the six different contexts and the combined context of all the six of them (significant at 0.01 level) were as follows :

	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_{1-6}
1972 Assembly Election	0.001	0.063	0.084	0.056	0.001	0.015	0.222
1971 Parliamentary Election	0.015	0.017	0.025	0.002	0.011	0.044	0.158

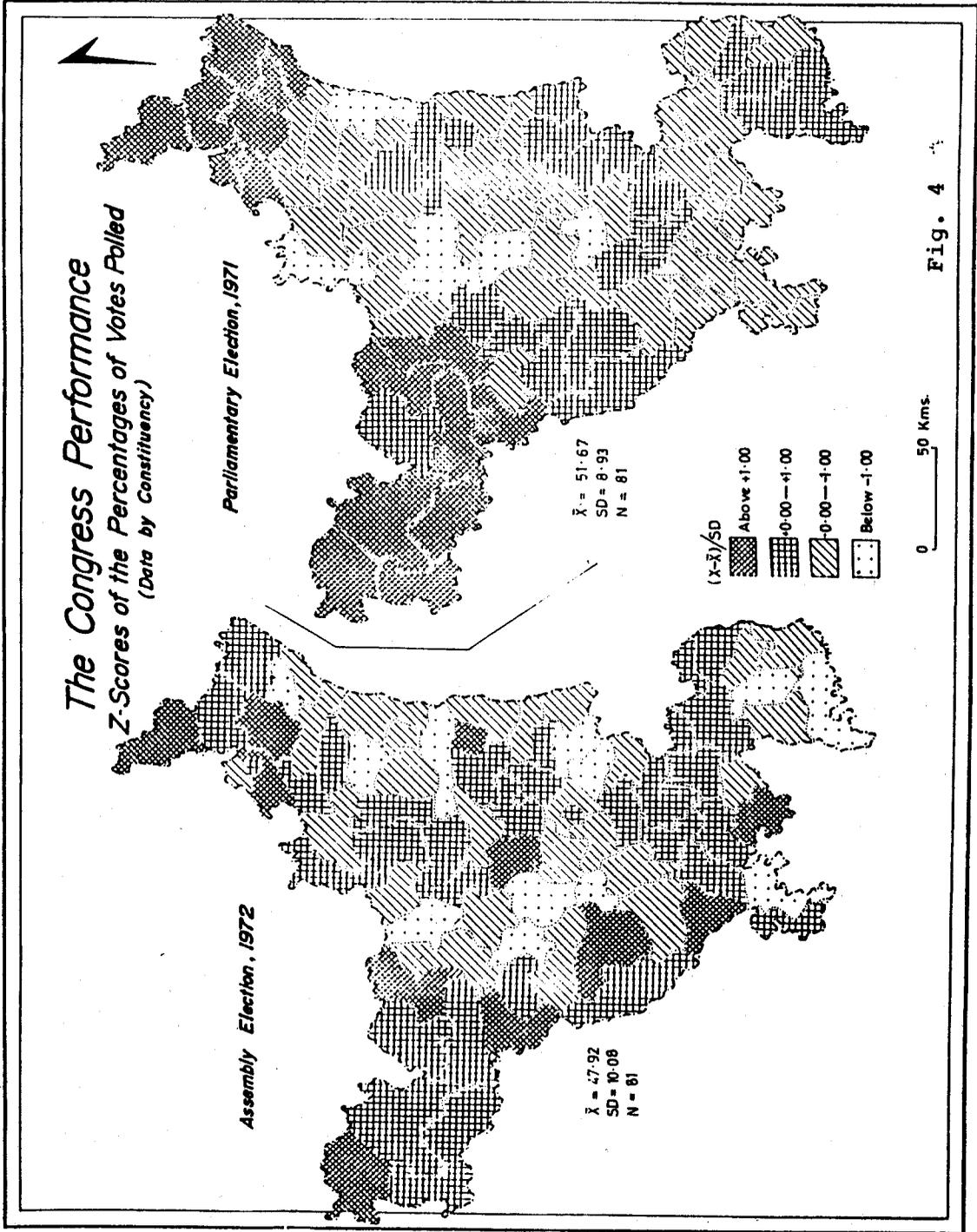
As the above figures show, in each of the two elections the explanatory strength of all the six factors taken together was again of a low

order, though as contrasted to the position obtaining in the earlier pair of elections this time the level of explanation was higher in the Assembly election than in the parliamentary one. Though there is no plausible explanation for the reversal of the trend, in a general sense owing to the strong sympathy wave blowing in favour of the Congress party at that time, local factors had become by and large of little consequence in influencing voting preferences of the electorate. The normal pattern of differentiation in voting choice between the Assembly vis-a-vis the parliamentary contest had, therefore, got blurred.

1977 Assembly vis—vis 1977 Parliamentary Election

In the 1977 Assembly election the Congress party had contested only 83 seats out of the increased total of 90. The party's average vote share per seat now was reduced to an all-time low of 18.65 percent. Inter-constituency Variation in the party's vote share now ranged between 2.54 and 44.7 percent. In two constituencies only had the party polled more than 40 percent vote, and in as many as 49 constituencies its vote share had been less than 20 percent. Standard deviation in the distribution of the party's vote was 10.39 percent, and coefficient of variation 55.71 percent—each being higher than in any of the earlier elections in the state.

In the 1977 parliamentary election the Congress party had contested 9 out of the total number of 10 parliamentary seats. The party



had polled an average vote share of 20.05 percent per Assembly segment (as contrasted to 51.67 percent per segment in 1971). Inter-Assembly segment variation in votes polled

Congress party on the six different contexts and the combined context of the six of them were as follows:

	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_{1-6}
Assembly Election	0.106	0.031	0.031	0.034	0.000	0.030	0.317
Parliamentary Election	0.015	0.215	0.001	0.229	0.000	0.123	0.360

by the party now ranged between 6.87 and 54.62 percent. Only in two Assembly segments had the party polled more than 50 percent vote whereas in as many as 45 Assembly segments its votes share was less than 20 percent- in six of these less than 10 percent. Standard deviation in the distribution of the party's vote share was 17.8 percent and coefficient of variation 35.6 percent each being significantly higher than in any previous election. This underlined the concentration of electoral support for the party in a few isolated pockets.

A comparative view of the maps (Fig.5) showing spatial patterns of intensity in voting in favour of the Congress party in the two different sets of electoral contests in 1977 reveals that despite difference in the spatial patterns of voting between the two sets of electoral contests observed in several Assembly segments, the overall pattern of voting in the two elections was more or less similar. This is quite understandable in the context of the strong anti-Congress wave blowing in whole of Haryana at the time of this immediate post-emergency election. As had been the case at the time of the pro-Congress wave in 1971-1972 elections, this time also the intensity of the reverse wave had contributed to blur the local and regional influences in voting: It was anti-Congressism all over, both in the Assembly as well as the parliamentary contest.

Explanation

R^2 values of electoral performance of the

Except for the Farm size and the Regions contexts (Factors 2 and 4) in the parliamentary election, none of the factors had recorded high explanatory value in the spatial variation in intensity of voting in favour of the Congress party. The total explanation offered by the combined influence of the selected set of socio-economic variables was 36 percent in the parliamentary election and 31.7 percent in the Assembly one. The difference between the two values is hardly significant but it does underline the general trend toward secular factors exercising greater influence in guiding voter preferences in the parliamentary contests vis-a-vis the Assembly ones.

1982 Assembly and 1980 Parliamentary Election

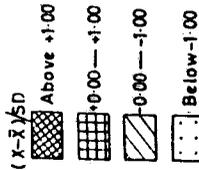
In the 1982 Assembly election the Congress party had contested all the seats and it had won the election polling an average vote share of 37.36 percent per seat. Inter constituency range of the percentage share of votes had ranged between 16.29 and 60.83 percent. Only in 9 constituencies had the party polled more than 50 percent vote and in as many as 20 constituencies the party's vote share was less than 30 percent. Standard deviation in the distribution of electoral support for the party was 9.97 percent, and the co-efficient of variation 27.81 percent. This underlined considerable variation in spatial distribution in the intensity of electoral support for the Congress party.

In the 1980 parliamentary election (held after

The Congress Performance Z-Scores of the Percentages of Votes Polled (Data by Constituency)

Assembly Election, 1977

$\bar{X} = 15.65$
 $SD = 10.39$
 $N = 83$



Parliamentary Election, 1977

$\bar{X} = 20.05$
 $SD = 10.78$
 $N = 81$

Fig. 5

the collapse of the Janata Party Government at the centre) the Congress party had contested all the seats. Its average vote share per Assembly segment was 32.28 per cent. Inter-segment range in the party's vote share had varied

Explanation

R^2 values of electoral performance of the Congress Party in the 1982 Assembly and 1980 parliamentary elections were as follows

	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_{1-6}
Assembly Election	0.000	0.060	0.008	0.008	0.038	0.001	0.151
Parliamentary Election	0.001	0.003	0.082	0.023	0.111	0.005	0.215

between 13.64 and 58.93 per cent. In a total number of 20 Assembly segments the party's vote share was above 40 per cent and only 8 of these had given the party more than 50 percent vote. In 13 Assembly segments the party's vote share was less than 20 per cent. Standard deviation in spatial distribution of the party's vote was 11.89 per cent and coefficient of variation 34.32 per cent. This underlined considerable spatial variation in the intensity of electoral support for the party.

A comparative view of the maps (Fig. 6) showing distribution of intensity in voting in favour of the Congress party in the 1982 Assembly election vis-a-vis the parliamentary contest of 1980 reveals considerable disparity in Assembly-segmentwise patterns of support between the two sets of electoral contests. While in the parliamentary election the whole of northern region of Haryana had given enthusiastic support to the Congress Party, the electorate had been much less enthusiastic toward the party in the Assembly election held two years later. The same was the case in the Meo-dominated region in the southeast as also in the whole of the Bhiwani region in the Western flank of Haryana's Jat belt. Only in the case of northwestern Haryana comprising Sirsa and Hissar, on the one hand, and the Ahirwal region of Mohinder-garh district and parts of Gurgaon district in the south, on the other, were the patterns for the Assembly and the Parliamentary elections generally similar.

The results show that none of the six contexts had high explanatory value in respect of variation in intensity of electoral support for the Congress Party. However, in line with the general trend in the past, the level of explanation was higher in respect of the parliamentary election (21.5 per cent) than in the Assembly one (15.1 per cent).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Regression of Congress vote share percentages over the six different socio-economic contexts and the combined context of all the six of them for each of the two sets of electoral contests held between 1967 to 1982 has yielded the following equations (Table 4).

A close scrutiny of the R^2 values in Table 4 reveals lack of consistent relationship between congress voting and the different individual contexts. A brief statement on each of the contexts is therefore in order.

(1) The urban development context (X_1) and a loading of less than 0.2 on seven occasions out of eight: only in respect of the 1977 Assembly election was the explanatory value of this context a little higher than ten per cent. this shows that urbanization and other parameters of development do not exert any significant influence on intensity of electoral support in favour of the Congress party in Haryana.

(2) There is also a general lack of consistency in the relationship between Congress voting

The Congress Performance Z-Scores of the Percentages of Votes Polled (Data by Constituency)

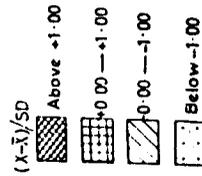
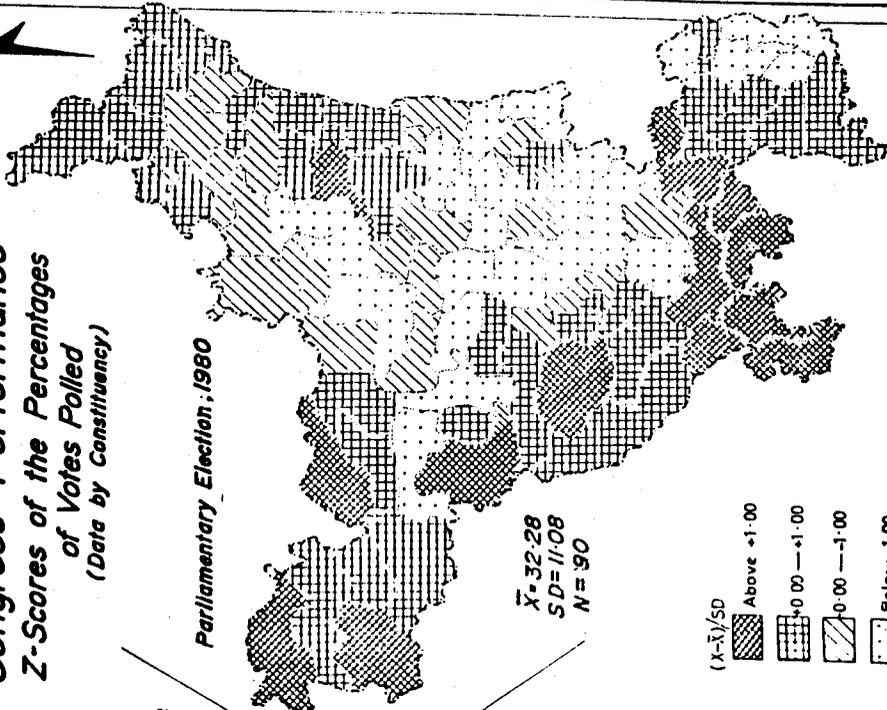
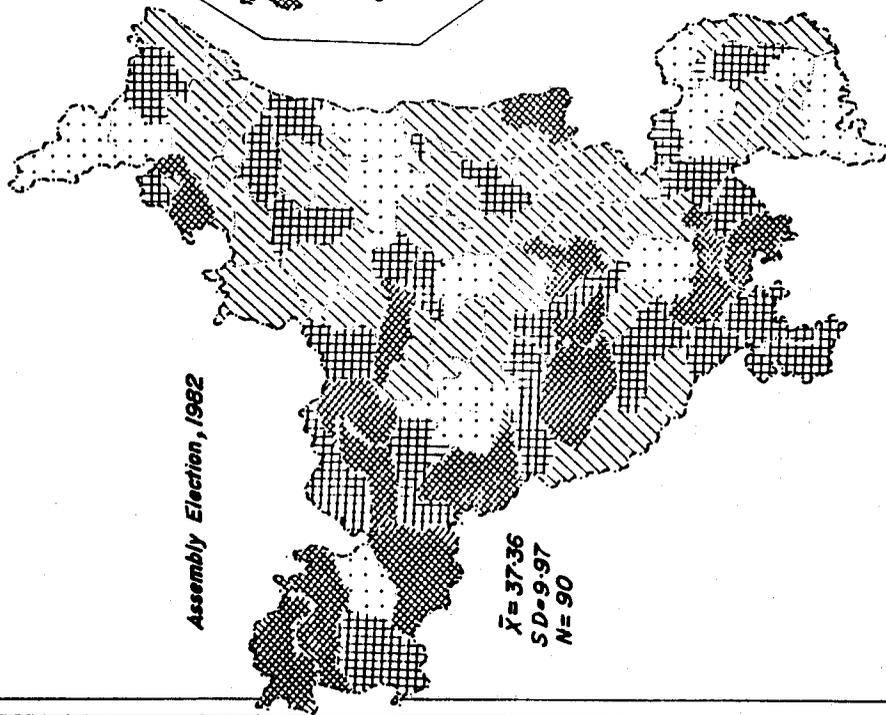


Fig. 6

Table 4.

**Regression and Multiple Regression Values of Congress Performance on
the Six Contexts and the Combined Context of all the Variables**

Assembly Elections

	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇
1967	0.000	0.043	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.031	0.093
1972	0.001	0.063	0.084	0.056	0.001	0.015	0.022
1977 •	0.106	0.031	0.031	0.034	0.000	0.030	0.317
1967	0.000	0.060	0.008	0.008	0.038	0.000	0.151

Parliamentary Elections

	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇
1967	0.020	0.170	0.075	0.005	0.000	0.097	0.325
1971	0.015	0.017	0.025	0.002	0.011	0.044	0.158
1977	0.015	0.215	0.001	0.229	0.000	0.123	0.360
1980	0.001	0.003	0.082	0.023	0.111	0.005	0.215

and the Farm-Size context (X₂). While in the four Assembly elections examined in our analysis, the explanatory value of this context had ranged between 3.1 and 6.3 per cent, in the respective set of four parliamentary contests this value had ranged between 0.3 per cent in 1980 and 21.5 per cent in 1977. Only in the parliamentary elections held in 1967 (17 per cent) and 1980 (21.5 per cent) the explanatory value of this context had been significant. (3) The Agricultural developmental context (X₃) had an explanatory value ranging between zero per cent to 8.4 per cent in the Assembly contests, and 0.8 to 8.2 per cent in the parliamentary ones. This underlined the absence of consistent relationship between agricultural development and intensity of electoral support for the Congress party as also absence of any significant relationship between the two.

(4) The position was more or less similar in

regard to the influence of the Religious Context (X₄) on the intensity of electoral support for the Congress party. While in the Assembly elections the explanatory value of this context had varied between zero per cent to 5.6 per cent, in the parliamentary contests the explanatory values of this context had ranged between 0.2 per cent in 1971 to 22.9 per cent in 1977.

(5) The explanatory value of the Sex Ratio Context (X₅) in seven of the eight electoral contests had ranged between zero per cent and 3.8 per cent. Only in the 1980 parliamentary election had the explanatory value of this context been really significant (11.1 per cent).

(6) The explanatory value of the Scheduled Caste Context (X₆), in six elections out of the eight, had ranged between 0.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent. Only in the parliamentary contests of 1967 and 1977 had the explanatory values of

this context been significant. It had explained 9.7 per cent vote variation in 1967, and 12.3 per cent in 1977. Given the low explanatory strength of the individual contexts in explaining spatial variations in intensity of electoral support for the Congress Party, it is natural that all the six socio-economic contexts put together should also register low explanatory values in explaining spatial disparity in intensity of voting in favour of the party. Only thrice-the parliamentary elections of 1967 and 1977, and the Assembly contest of 1977 - had the combined explanatory strength of all the six socio-economic contexts exceeded 30 per cent: The highest explanatory strength of 36 per cent was recorded for the 1977 parliamentary contest.

The foregoing analysis has, nevertheless, clearly underlined the fact that election for election the influence of socio-economic factors in spatial variation in the intensity of electoral support for the Congress party was significantly higher in respect of the parliamentary contests as compared to the Assembly ones. The only exception to this general trend had been observed in the parliamentary election of 1971 vis-a-vis the Assembly contest of 1972 when the R^2 value of the Assembly election was higher (22.2 per cent) than that for the parliamentary contest (15.8 per cent) held in the previous year. This exception notwithstanding, the overall inference arrived at from the foregoing analysis is that the electorate has applied quite different sets of considerations in exercising franchise in elections to the state Assembly vis-a-vis the parliamentary contests. Thus, our analysis supports the hypothesis that owing to the seemingly dualistic political structure under a federal system, electoral preferences of the voters are guided by different sets of considerations in elections to the state Assembly vis-a-vis the Parliament.

Part of the explanation for such a differential

perception in voting may lie in that in the state-level elections local issues and socio-economic conflicts arising from local and/or regional complexities of ethnic group relations tend to dominate electoral preferences in specific constituencies. Such diverse little issues and local-level conflicts tend to get lost in the changed context of the larger electoral contest for the national parliament, since a single parliamentary constituency may, on an average, incorporate six to eight Assembly constituency segments.

Besides, not only are the Assembly constituencies much smaller in size, the contestants for the Assembly seats are more often than not drawn from amongst the local electorate. Owing to this, most of the candidates-and their plus and minus points-are known to the voting public so that personal likes and dislikes, and local level conflicts generated by caste and community differences assume much greater importance at the time of Assembly contests. Political parties of all hues are known to adjust their electoral strategies accordingly. In respect of the parliamentary contests, however, even if the party candidate is recruited from within the parliamentary constituency, he would still belong to only one of the eight odd Assembly segments comprising the electoral battlefield and, for that reason, he shall not be known to most of the voting public in the other segments. There is, therefore, relatively much less scope for personal liking and disliking and local-level caste and other ethnic conflicts to influence voting preferences of the electorate.

Another contributing factor leading to differences in voting preferences between the two sets of electoral contests is that the individual voter may feel far more personally involved in the elections to the state Assembly vis-a-vis the parliamentary contests in that complexion of the ruling party in the state legislature shall largely decide the quality of day to day

government in his village or town. It is the government at the state capital that controls his daily life. The national government in New Delhi, in comparison, is a distantly removed entity. As such, the common voter may feel

much less personally involved in the electoral process for the recruitment of representatives to the national parliament so that voting decisions tend to be more secular in nature.

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