

Secure Energy Project

New national poll: A clear majority of Indians say clean energy is more important than ever after US aggression overseas

Background

- So far in 2026, the United States has taken unprecedented actions that threaten the current global order - including the kidnapping of Venezuela's former president Nicolás Maduro, threats to invade Greenland, and starting a war with Iran.
- Oil, gas and other natural resource grabs have played a direct or indirect role in all of these actions.
- In this context, this study seeks to understand the Indian public's opinion on energy security.
- The study was conducted shortly before the US first launched airstrikes on Iran on 28th February 2026, but clearly has implications for public perceptions of more recent US actions in the Middle East.

Findings

- In light of recent events, a clear majority of people in India believe that reliance on fossil fuels is an international security threat.
- A significant majority of Indians think transitioning towards renewable energy would strengthen national security and make India safer.
- The Indian public clearly believes that it is unacceptable to take over another country for its natural resources.
- The capture of Venezuela's former president Nicolás Maduro was unacceptable to the Indian public, particularly given the US Administration's motivation as relates to oil resources.

Methodology

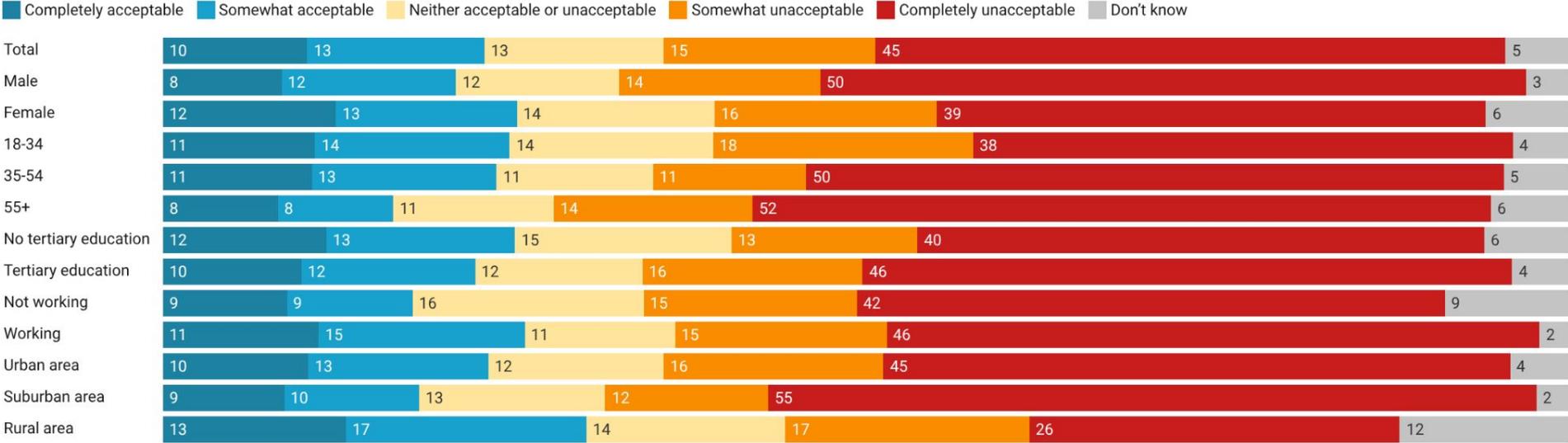
- To better understand public attitudes, polling firm Opinium was commissioned by the Secure Energy Project to carry out data collection with a nationally representative sample in India, including 1000 respondents.
- The survey was conducted in English between February 4 and 14, 2026 online using computer-assisted web-based interviewing (CAWI).
- This results in a theoretical margin of error of approximately +/- 3.1%.
- This report presents cross-tabulations for a range of different groups in Indian society - the margins of error for these groups are higher than for the overall population.

Methodology

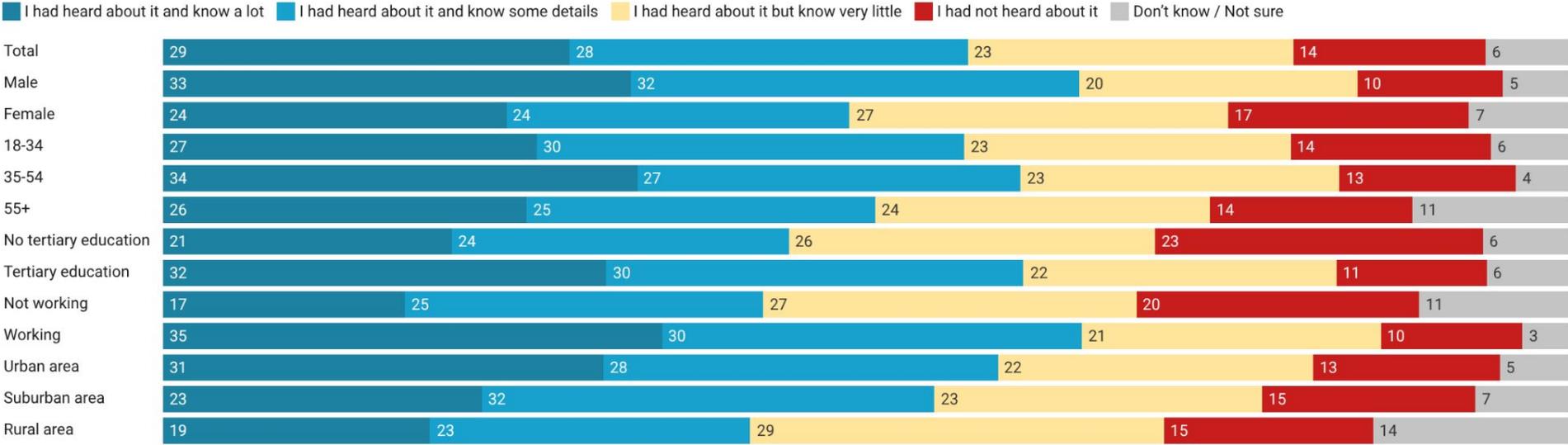
The report provides breakdowns of the following groups attitudes in India:

- Gender (Male or Female)
- Age group (18-34, 35-54, 55+)
- Education level (No tertiary education or tertiary education)
- Working status (Not working or Working)
- Settlement type (Urban area, Suburban area, or Rural area)

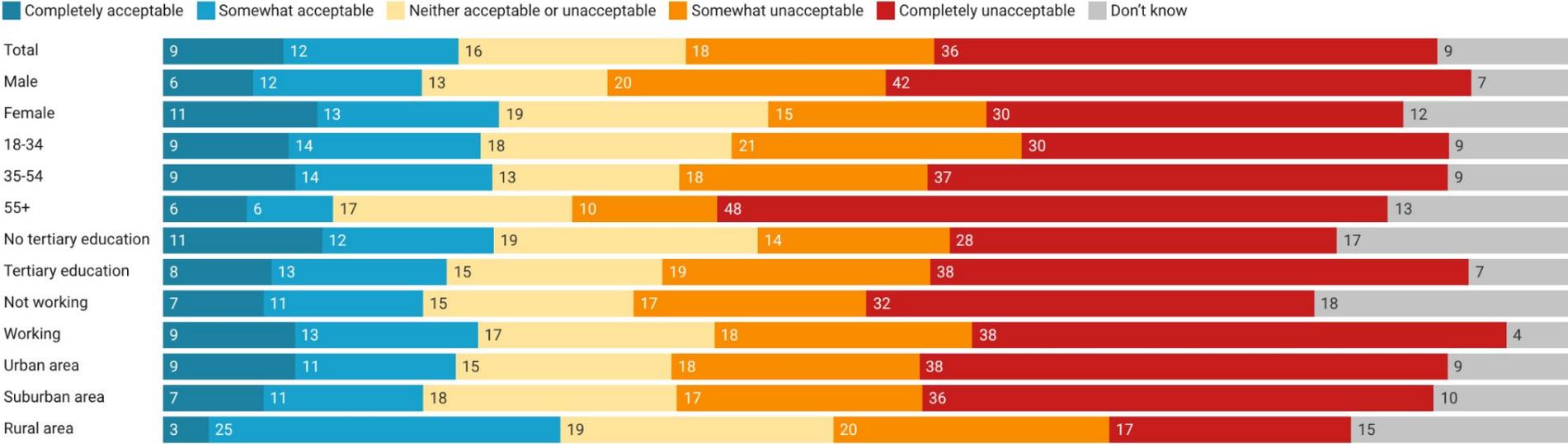
To what extent, if at all, do you think that it is acceptable or unacceptable for one country to use military force to take control of another country's natural resources? (%)



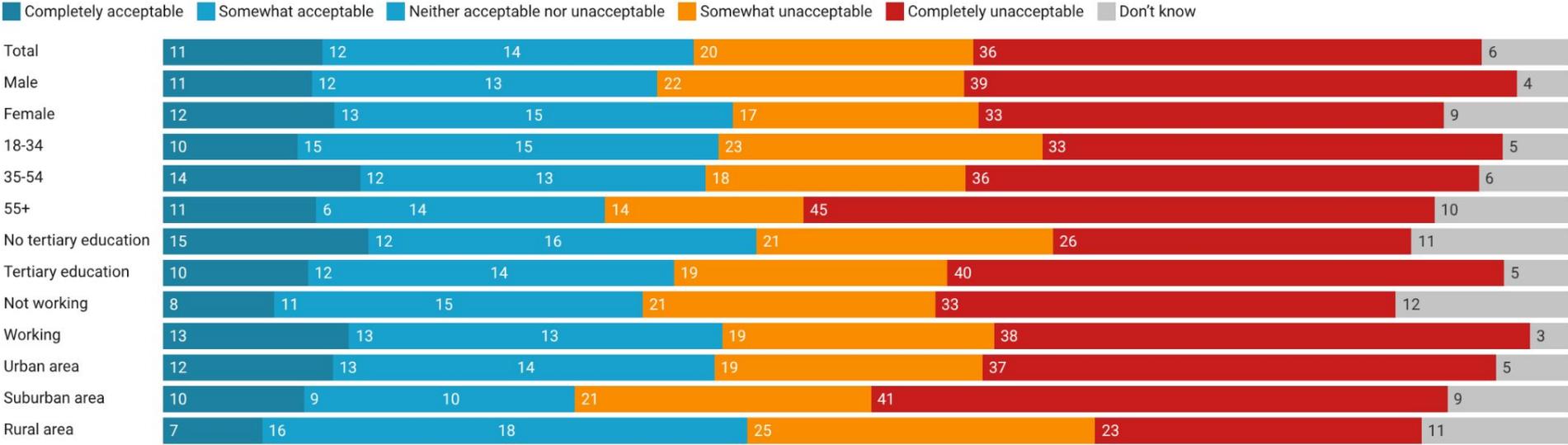
Before today, had you seen or heard news about recent actions by the United States to arrest Nicolas Maduro, the president of Venezuela? (%)



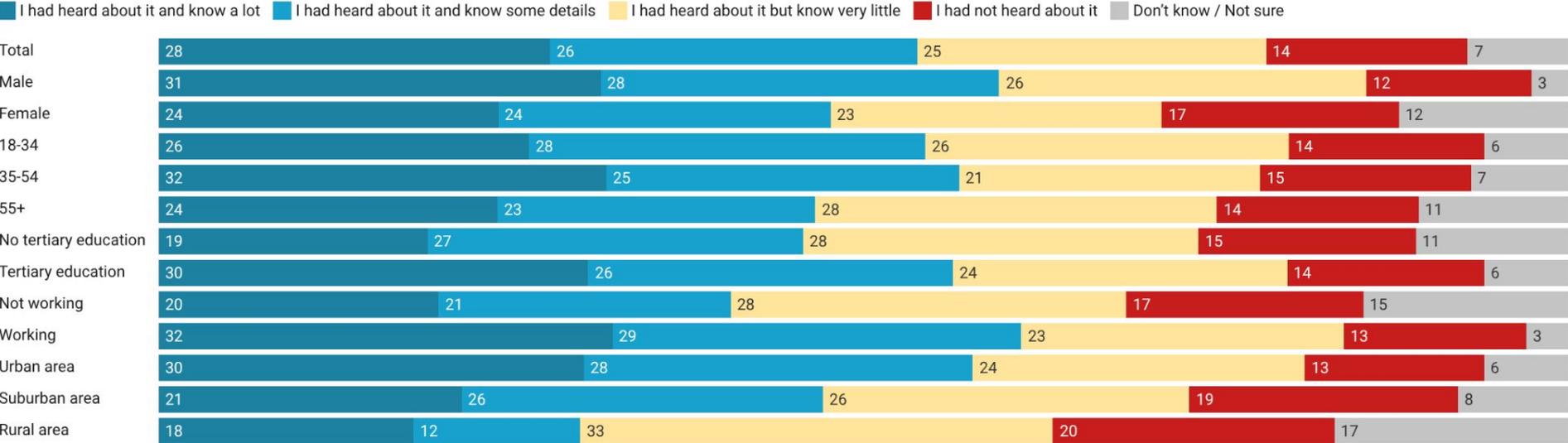
Based on what you know, how acceptable or unacceptable do you think it was for the United States to arrest Nicholas Maduro? (%)



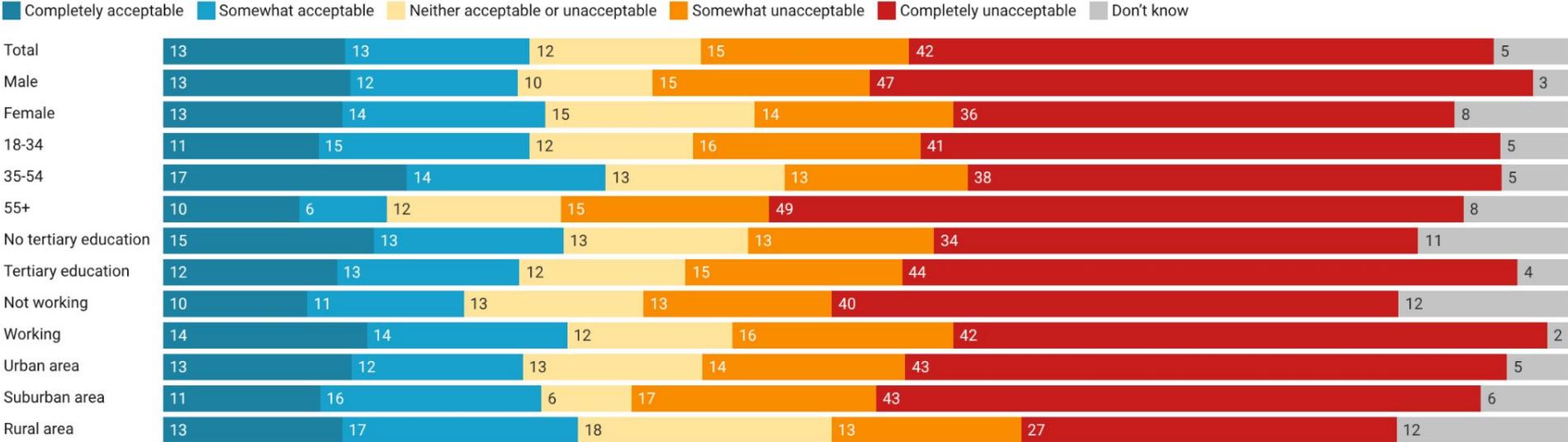
Donald Trump has suggested that access to Venezuela's oil reserves was one reason for the United States' arrest of Nicholas Maduro. How acceptable or unacceptable do you think that reason is? (%)



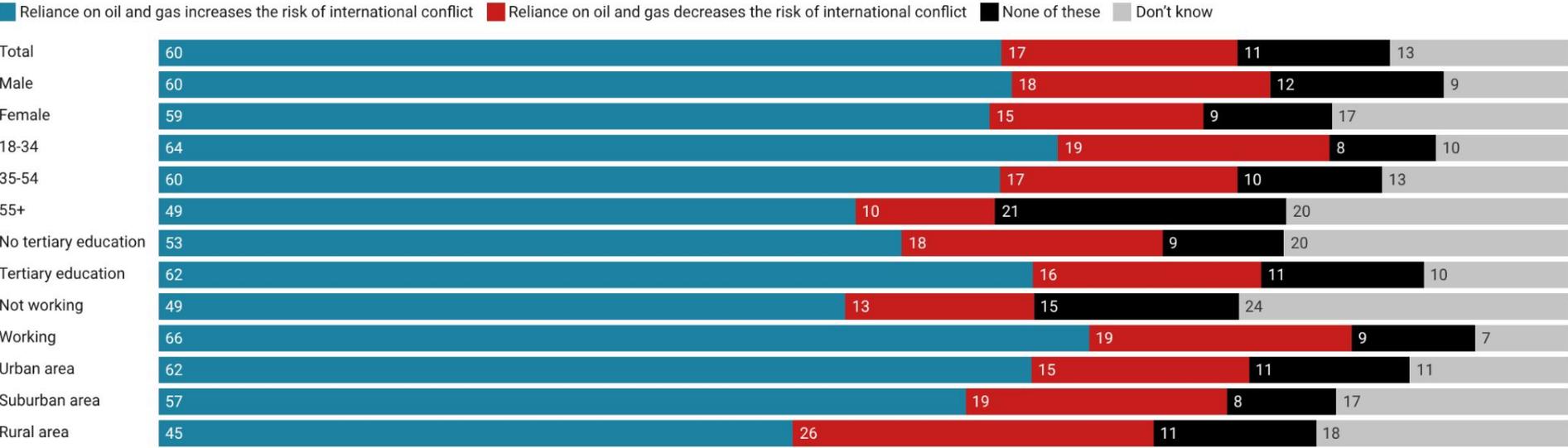
Donald Trump has also claimed that the United States wants to take control of Greenland. Before today, had you heard of this or not? (%)



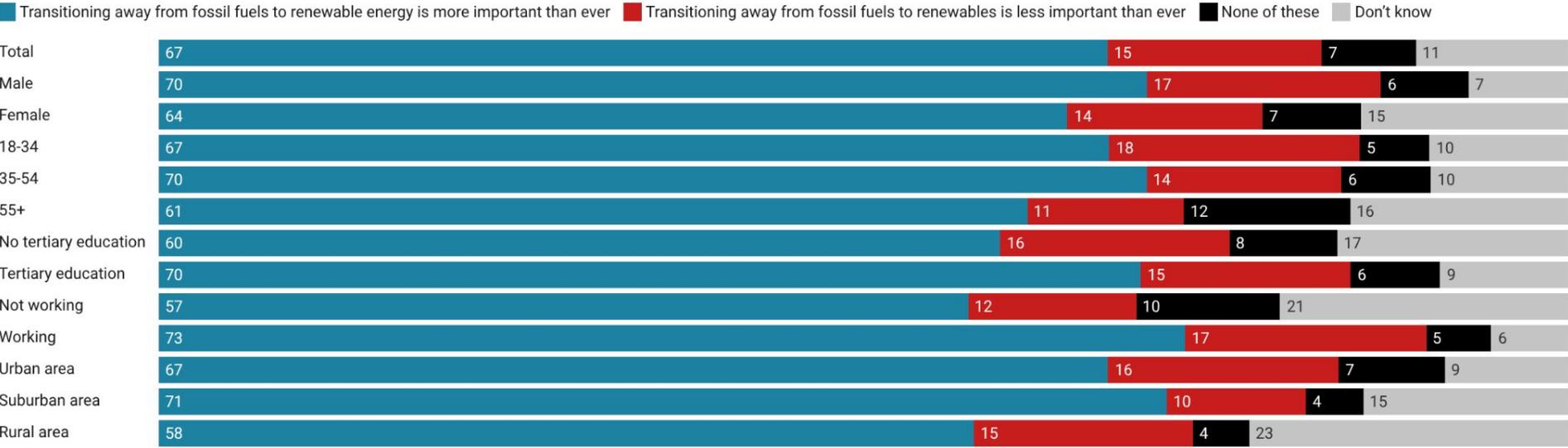
Some news reports have suggested that the United States' interest in Greenland is linked to its natural resources, including oil and gas. How acceptable or unacceptable do you think this reason would be for taking over Greenland? (%)



In light of recent events in Greenland and Venezuela, which of the following statements do you agree with more? (%)



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In light of recent events in Greenland and Venezuela, which of the following statements do you agree with more? (%)

■ Transitioning to domestic renewable energy such as solar and wind would strengthen national security
 ■ Transitioning to domestic renewable energy such as solar and wind would weaken national security
 ■ None of these
 ■ Don't know

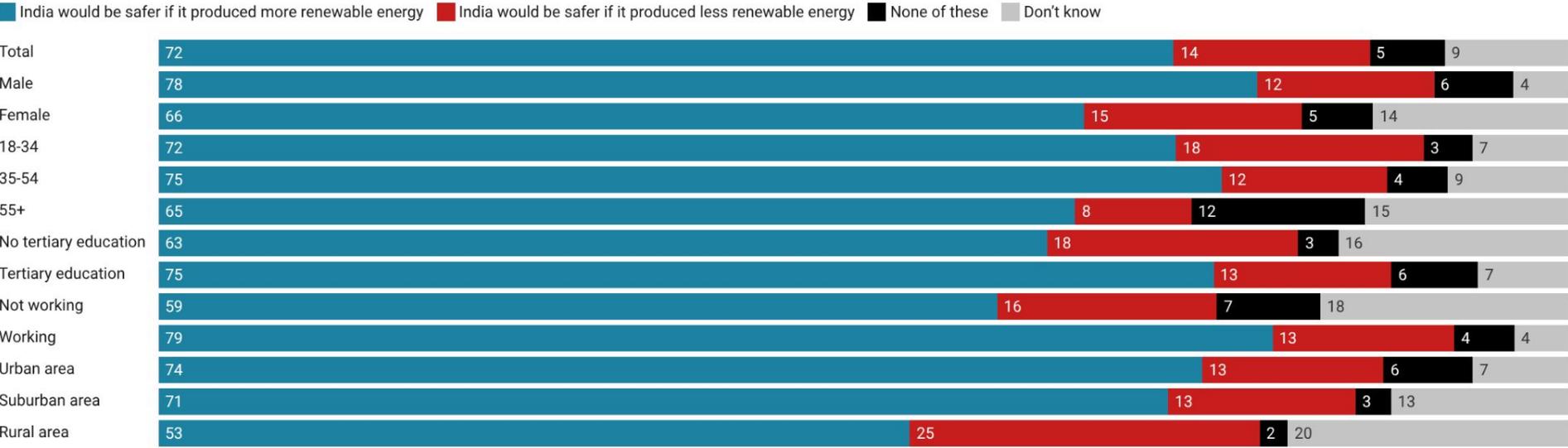


In light of recent events in Greenland and Venezuela, which of the following statements do you agree with more? (%)

■ Our country needs to think seriously about the need to transition away from fossil fuels to renewable forms of energy
 ■ Our country needs to think seriously about securing our oil and gas supplies
 ■ None of these
 ■ Don't know



In light of recent events in Greenland and Venezuela, which of the following statements do you agree with more? (%)



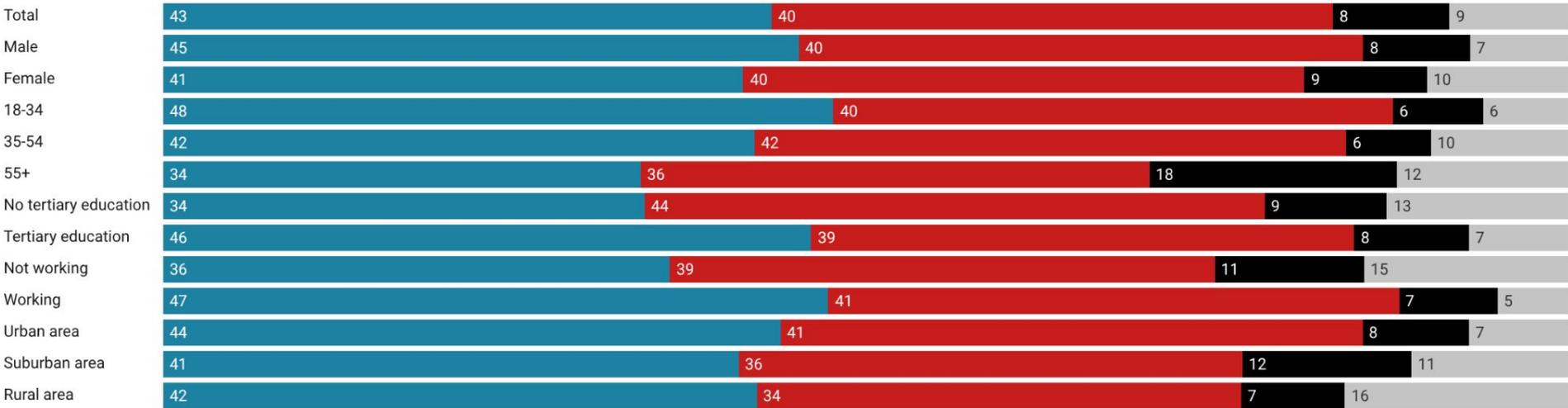
Which of the following statements best reflects your view? (%)

■ Countries which rely heavily on fossil fuels are more vulnerable to international conflict than countries that don't
 ■ Countries that rely heavily on fossil fuels are less vulnerable to international conflict than countries that don't
 ■ None of these
 ■ Don't know

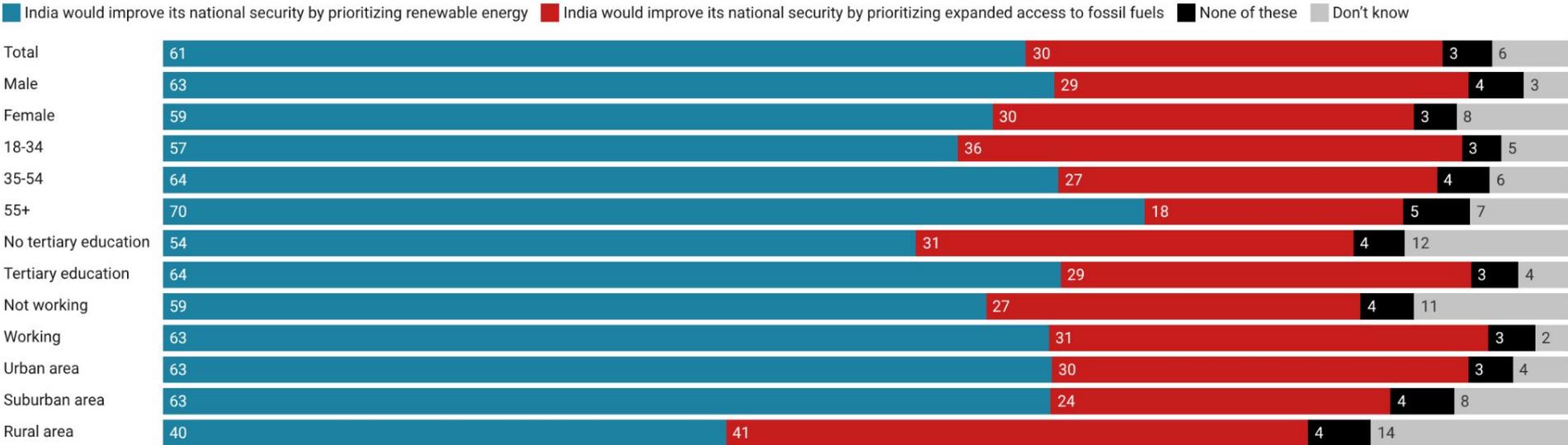


Which of the following statements best reflects your view? (%)

■ Relying on fossil fuels weakens national security
 ■ Relying on fossil fuels strengthens national security
 ■ None of these
 ■ Don't know



Which of the following statements best reflects your view? (%)



Which approach do you personally prefer more? (%)

■ Prioritizing the clean energy transition ■ Prioritizing expansion of fossil fuel resources ■ None of these ■ Don't know

