

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 16

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 1997

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the urgent need to improve the living standards of those South Asians living in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra River Basin.

Whereas some 400,000,000 people live in Bangladesh, northern India, and Nepal near the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries;

Whereas these people comprise the largest concentration of poor people in the world;

Whereas this region lacks the resources, especially the infrastructure, that can pull its residents out of poverty;

Whereas almost every year flooding by the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers produces death and destruction, sometimes on a vast scale;

Whereas during the dry seasons, water supplies do not meet the needs of the region's people, especially farmers;

Whereas despite these problems, the region has great potential for development;

Whereas Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have recognized for many years that the water resources of the region, if properly managed, could contribute greatly to the welfare of millions of people in the region;

Whereas the Governments of Bangladesh and India signed a 30-year agreement on December 12, 1996, for the purpose of sharing the water of the Ganges River; and

Whereas in 1996 the Governments of India and Nepal signed and ratified a treaty enabling the joint development of the water resources of the Mahakali River: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) congratulates the Governments of Ban-
4 gladesh and India for their recent agreement on
5 sharing the water of the Ganges River;

6 (2) congratulates the Governments of India and
7 Nepal on their treaty enabling the joint development
8 of the water resources of the Mahakali River;

9 (3) respectfully offers its encouragement for the
10 three governments to continue their cooperation

1 which can do much to relieve the poverty of those
2 people living the Ganges and Brahmaputra River
3 Basin; and

4 (4) urges international financial institutions,
5 such as the World Bank and the Asian Development
6 Bank, and the international community to offer
7 whatever advice, encouragement, and assistance is
8 appropriate to help in this effort.

 Passed the House of Representatives March 11,
1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.