

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 656

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of India should take immediate steps to end the human rights abuses by government forces in India, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2000

Mr. TOWNS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of India should take immediate steps to end the human rights abuses by government forces in India, and for other purposes.

Whereas significant human rights abuses exist in India despite extensive constitutional and statutory safeguards;

Whereas these human rights abuses involve political killings by government forces, including the deaths of persons being held in custody, and the manipulation of physical evidence to provide false justifications for the use of lethal force;

Whereas human rights abuses are particularly evident in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and several northeastern states in India;

Whereas the human rights abuses include the disappearance, torture, and killing of people by government forces;

Whereas, although the Constitution of India provides for freedom of religion, violence and intolerance are perpetrated against many religious groups in India, including Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Hindus;

Whereas such violence and intolerance occur in many parts of India, particularly at the state and local levels;

Whereas the failure of the Government of India to protect these religious groups has abridged their right to religious freedom;

Whereas during the last 18 months Christians, in particular, have been attacked or killed and have had their houses of worship destroyed;

Whereas extensive legal and societal discrimination as well as violence, including female bondage and forced prostitution, occur against women in India; and

Whereas the use of child labor in India remains a serious human rights problem: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the Government of India should take imme-
4 diate steps to end the human rights abuses per-
5 petrated by government forces in India;

6 (2) the Government of India should enforce the
7 constitutional right to freedom of religion by pro-
8 tecting the people of India from religiously moti-
9 vated violence and intolerance;

1 (3) the Government of India should develop
2 policies to end the discrimination and violence faced
3 by women in Indian society;

4 (4) the Government of India should develop
5 policies to end the use of child labor in India; and

6 (5) the United States should consider the ex-
7 tent to which the Government of India has acted in
8 conformity with the principles expressed in para-
9 graphs (1) through (4) as a factor in future deci-
10 sions regarding the allocation of foreign assistance.

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