

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1760

To authorize emergency disaster assistance for recovery from the earthquakes of January and February 2001 in the Republic of India and the Republic of El Salvador, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SHAW, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. REYES, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BACA, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. PELOSI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize emergency disaster assistance for recovery from the earthquakes of January and February 2001 in the Republic of India and the Republic of El Salvador, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Relief, Community Vi-
3 talization, and Emergency Readiness in India and El Sal-
4 vador (RECOVERIES) Act of 2001”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) In January and February of 2001, earth-
9 quakes in the Republic of El Salvador and the Re-
10 public of India killed more than 20,900 people, in-
11 jured more than 175,000 people, destroyed or dam-
12 aged 1,400,000 homes, and left 2,000,000 people
13 homeless. As many as 22,000,000 people were af-
14 fected by the earthquakes, amid widespread devasta-
15 tion to infrastructure and livelihoods.

16 (2) On January 26, 2001, India’s Republic
17 Day, the most powerful earthquake in India in 50
18 years struck the state of Gujarat. To date, 19,739
19 people have been killed, 167,000 have been injured,
20 1,112,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged,
21 600,000 people are homeless, and as many as
22 20,000,000 people overall have been affected—40
23 percent of the population of this region. To date,
24 400 aftershocks, 19 of which qualify as small earth-
25 quakes, have been reported.

1 (3)(A) On January 13 and February 13, 2001,
2 powerful earthquakes struck El Salvador. Other,
3 smaller earthquakes and more than 5,000 after-
4 shocks have devastated the country, a nation already
5 battered by years of civil war and Hurricane Mitch
6 in 1998.

7 (B) The combined number of deaths from the
8 two earthquakes in El Salvador is 1,159, the num-
9 ber of injuries is 8,519, and the number of destroyed
10 or damaged homes is 334,866. Nearly 1,600,000
11 Salvadorans have been affected, almost 1 in every 4
12 of the country's population. The equivalent in the
13 United States would be that the entire populations
14 of California, Texas, New Jersey, and the District of
15 Columbia were affected.

16 (4) The estimated cost of rebuilding El Sal-
17 vador is between \$1,600,000,000 and
18 \$2,800,000,000. Many public buildings and church-
19 es, and 1,700 schools (more than one in three in the
20 country) have been damaged. In some municipalities,
21 80 to 95 percent of the buildings have been de-
22 stroyed. More than 640 landslides have occurred,
23 blocking roads (including the Pan American High-
24 way) and destroying houses. The start of the rainy
25 season in early May 2001 will bring more landslides

1 and another disaster if mitigation plans are not im-
2 plemented quickly.

3 (5) In Gujarat, estimated damage from the
4 January 26, 2001, earthquake is between
5 \$4,600,000,000 and \$5,500,000,000. According to
6 the Indian Red Cross Society, infrastructure has
7 been severely damaged, including large scale collapse
8 of buildings, mine cave-ins, train derailments, and
9 power failure that has cut off the water supply. Al-
10 most 24,000 schools were damaged or destroyed,
11 and up to 14,000 of them will need to be rebuilt.
12 Also lost were 3 hospitals, and many health centers.
13 Devastation from the earthquake comes on top of an
14 already existing drought. Catholic Relief Services, on
15 the ground in India for 40 years, reports that needs
16 far outstrip projected aid.

17 (6) The people of the United States and India
18 have developed a strong friendship based on mutual
19 interests and respect. India is the world's largest de-
20 mocracy and shares a common bond with the United
21 States in its development as a nation. The United
22 States is India's largest trading partner and largest
23 investor.

24 (7) The people of the United States and El Sal-
25 vador share strong friendship and mutual interests

1 and respect. The United States is El Salvador's
2 largest trading partner. El Salvador has worked
3 hard to consolidate peace and democracy after many
4 years of a difficult war, and has become an impor-
5 tant ally in the effort to stem the flow of illegal nar-
6 cotics.

7 (8) Approximately 150,000 lives are lost each
8 year through natural disasters. Statistics show that
9 97 percent of deaths from natural disasters occur in
10 developing countries. \$100,000,000,000 is lost each
11 year in damages from natural disasters.

12 (9)(A) Studies show that investment in disaster
13 mitigation and preparedness pay off. In the United
14 States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency
15 reports that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, at
16 least \$2 are saved in costs toward reconstruction fol-
17 lowing disasters.

18 (B) In the developing world, savings are much
19 more dramatic. The World Bank reports that if only
20 10 percent of the costs of disaster relief and recov-
21 ery were instead spent on mitigation and prepared-
22 ness before disasters struck, a 7-fold return on in-
23 vestment would be seen.

24 (C) The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
25 of the United States Agency for International Devel-

1 opment reports that following a 1998 flood in
2 Kinshasa, Congo, that caused \$7,100,000 in dam-
3 ages, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance spent
4 \$130,000 to cleanup and mitigate against future
5 flooding. In 1999, similar flooding hit, but the miti-
6 gation efforts prevented damages, saving
7 \$7,000,000.

8 (10)(A) House Concurrent Resolution 15, as
9 adopted by the House of Representatives on January
10 31, 2001, and Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, as
11 adopted by the Senate on February 8, 2001, re-
12 solved that Congress “expresses its support for con-
13 tinuing and substantially increasing the amount of
14 disaster assistance being provided [to India] by the
15 United States Agency for International Development
16 (USAID) and other relief agencies”.

17 (B) Senate Resolution 18, as adopted by the
18 Senate on February 8, 2001, “encourages a contin-
19 ued commitment by the United States and other
20 countries to the long-term, sustainable development
21 of El Salvador”.

22 (C) House Concurrent Resolution 41, as adopt-
23 ed by the House of Representatives on March 21,
24 2001, “expresses support for continuing and sub-
25 stantially increasing, in connection with these earth-

1 quakes, relief and reconstruction assistance provided
2 by relief agencies . . . including . . . the United
3 States Agency for International Development”.

4 (11) In the wake of Hurricane Mitch, the Mitch
5 Consultative Group formulated what have become
6 known as the “Stockholm Principles”, namely that
7 the reconstruction and transformation of the af-
8 fected countries should be guided by the following
9 goals and principles: (A) reduction of social and en-
10 vironmental vulnerability, (B) transparency and
11 good governance, (C) decentralization and civil soci-
12 ety participation, and (D) human rights and equal-
13 ity.

14 (12) Development assistance, aimed ultimately
15 toward poverty reduction, is the best mitigation
16 against catastrophic disaster.

17 (13) Nongovernmental organizations working
18 on the ground, such as CARE, Catholic Relief Serv-
19 ices, Habitat for Humanity International and others,
20 strive to focus on long-term sustainable development,
21 even in the midst of tragedy and immediate emer-
22 gency relief efforts.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that—

1 (1) the nature and scale of the earthquake dis-
2 asters that recently struck El Salvador and India
3 demonstrate that these are true disaster emergencies
4 and that the United States should respond by pro-
5 viding emergency disaster assistance;

6 (2)(A) emergency disaster assistance programs
7 must complement and work with development assist-
8 ance programs in order that the two types of pro-
9 grams reinforce one another; and

10 (B) emergency disaster assistance programs
11 should support and not undermine the long-term
12 sustainable development efforts of nongovernmental
13 organizations already working on the ground in
14 countries that have suffered disasters; and

15 (3) as such, regular United States bilateral de-
16 velopment assistance funds that have been reallo-
17 cated in order to meet the current emergency needs
18 for relief and recovery following the earthquakes in
19 India and El Salvador should be reimbursed with
20 the funds authorized in this Act.

21 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR INDIA**
22 **AND EL SALVADOR.**

23 (a) EMERGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The
24 President is authorized to provide assistance under chap-
25 ter 9 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22

1 U.S.C. 2292 et seq.; relating to international disaster as-
2 sistance) for recovery from the earthquakes of January
3 and February 2001 in the Republic of India and the Re-
4 public of El Salvador.

5 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 (1) EMERGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—

7 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-
8 dent \$468,500,000 for fiscal year 2001 to carry out
9 subsection (a). Of such amount—

10 (A) not less than \$117,600,000 is author-
11 ized to be appropriated for recovery in India;

12 (B) not less than \$301,400,000 is author-
13 ized to be appropriated for recovery in El Sal-
14 vador;

15 (C) not less than \$500,000 is authorized to
16 be appropriated for technical assistance to de-
17 velop emergency management systems in El
18 Salvador and India; and

19 (D) such sums as may be necessary are
20 authorized to be appropriated for operating ex-
21 penses of the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development.

23 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—There is authorized to
24 be appropriated to the President \$73,000,000 for
25 fiscal year 2001 to reimburse the appropriate devel-

1 opment assistance accounts for amounts obligated
2 before the date of the enactment of this Act for re-
3 covery from the earthquakes of January and Feb-
4 ruary 2001 in the Republic of India and the Repub-
5 lic of El Salvador.

6 (3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
7 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
8 paragraphs (1) and (2) are authorized to remain
9 available until expended.

10 **SEC. 4. DISASTER MITIGATION ASSISTANCE FOR INDIA, EL**
11 **SALVADOR, AND CERTAIN OTHER COUN-**
12 **TRIES.**

13 (a) DISASTER MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
14 dent is authorized to provide assistance under chapter 9
15 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
16 2292 et seq.; relating to international disaster assistance)
17 for disaster mitigation activities in the Republic of India,
18 the Republic of El Salvador, and other countries that con-
19 tain highly disaster-prone areas.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
22 appropriated to the President \$20,000,000 for fiscal
23 year 2001 to carry out subsection (a).

24 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
25 suant to the authorization of appropriations under

1 paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available
2 until expended.

3 **SEC. 5. DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.**

4 All funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization
5 of appropriations under section 3(b) and section 4(b)(1)
6 are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to
7 section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
8 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

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