

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding covering of the Tungtaap drain and making them underground in Amritsar city.

***SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA (AMRITSAR):** I thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. You are running the House late and allowing us to raise important issues.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Tungtaap drain in my constituency. This drain had been excavated in 1955 to save the city from flood. It flows through east, north and west Attari and flows into Hadwara Nullah that flows into Pakistan and ultimately goes into river Ravi.

Sir, lots of factories have come up on both sides of the drain. It passes through several towns and villages as well. Filthy and polluted sewage and effluents of factories flow into this drain. It has contaminated the underground water too, thus making it dirty and unfit for consumption. All items like AC, Fridge, T.V. etc. get corroded as the air as well as water around this drain has been badly contaminated.

Sir, the P.G.I., Chandigarh, Human Genetics deptt. of Guru Nanak Dev University, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research, World Wide Fund in Nature, Aquatic Biology lab of G.N.D. University have all got together and conducted a research. It was found that this stench-filled dirty water is adversely affecting the DNA of children.

This highly contaminated water leads to heart disease, cancer, skin diseases and eye-aliments. Pakistan has raised this issue in U.N.O. against us. This drain should be covered and other steps should be taken to improve the situation.

There is another Nullah that flows through Attari. It starts at Hempura, Bhaktawalan, Anngarh and Faqir colony. It passes by the Government dairy complex. Sir, these drains are huge sources of pollution. Amritsar is the holy city of Gurus. It is matter of great concern for all of us.

So, I urge upon the Government to cover these drains and make them underground. Other steps may also be taken to mitigate the suffering of people and salvage the situation. Thank you.