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Title: Demand to divert the Ghaggar water during rainy season to Bathinda Thermal Plant and also Channalized the water for irrigation purpose.

**\*SHRI MOHAMMAD SADIQUE (FARIDKOT):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the government through you towards a very important subject.

Sir, the seasonal river Ghaggar starts from Ambala in Haryana. It enters Punjab and passes through Khanauri and Sardulgarh in Punjab and then enters Hanumangarh in Rajasthan. In the rainy season, it wreaks havoc in all these areas. Standing crops are damaged and destroyed. Farmers work hard to grow their crops. But, these crops are wiped out by the water of river Ghaggar.

Sir, I urge upon the Central Government to bail out these farmers. From Sardulgarh to Bathinda, 65 Km area is there through which the river passes. Some mechanism should be evolved so that we can rein in the menace of this seasonal rivulet. If this excess water could be harnessed and sent into the lake of the Bathinda Thermal Plant, it would save the farmers' crops from destruction. This surplus water can be channelized for irrigation of fields. Moreover, if this water is treated, it can be utilized for drinking purpose. The standing crops in thousands of acres will be saved. It will double the income of farmers.

Sir, the groundwater level in Punjab has receded further. So, this surplus water should be judiciously harnessed and utilized. It is the duty

of the government to save water from being wasted. I have already intimated the government in this regard.

So, if the government wants to double the income of the farmers, it must come to their rescue. This is a just and genuine demand. A survey should be conducted and work in this regard should be started at the earliest. Thanks.