

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need for water management of river Ravi.

\*SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA (AMRITSAR): Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important matter pertaining to my constituency.

Sir I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards river Ravi that flows adjacent to my constituency. River Ravi flows along my constituency Amritsar for at least 25 kms. Pakistan falls on the other side of river Ravi. All kinds of smuggling, bootlegging and terrorism – related activities take place along this river. Whether it was the Gurdaspur incident or the Pathankot attack, terrorists used the river and this terrain to their advantage.

Sir, Pakistan has constructed a concrete embankment on its side called ‘Dhussi’. During the time of floods, our farmers suffer as they find themselves at the receiving end. The farmers of the area find themselves in dire straits financially.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to bail out the hapless farmers of this area financially. Rivers, as such, are considered as economy – boosters in all countries. In foreign countries, rivers boost tourism as tourists come to have a canal-view or river-view in a particular area.

So, I demand that a concrete embankment should be constructed on our side of river Ravi adjacent to Amritsar constituency. A road should also be constructed along the river so that an eye can be kept on the activities of Pakistan. Secondly, over 1.50 lakh tourists visit Amritsar daily. If proper water-bodies are constructed and taken care of, these tourists will be able to enjoy the scenery. This is the area of Dera Baba Nanak Kartarpur Sahib, and Baba Buddha Sahib. Its historical importance is known to all. So, I urge upon the Government to construct a concrete embankment on river Ravi. Tourism should be given a boost in the area. Farmers of the area should be bailed out economically.