

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 10th November, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WIRELESS AGREEMENT AND ANTI-LOCUST CONVENTION WITH IRAN

*116. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations for concluding a direct wireless agreement and for finalising the Anti-locust Convention with Iran have been successful; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of these agreements?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Negotiations for the establishment of a direct wireless link between Iran and India are still in progress. A Convention relating to control of desert locusts was concluded on the 14th August 1947.

(b) The terms of the Convention are briefly that in the years of desert locust outbreaks and migration, steps will be taken by the Governments of Iran and India to (1) maintain observation posts to determine the flight direction of desert locust swarms and inspect and chart oviposition areas immediately egg laying has taken place, (2) combat the locust in all stages of its development, (3) promptly exchange information regarding the flight direction of swarms, (4) have consultative meetings once a year in each country with a view to discussing reports on the activity of the desert locust and results achieved in controlling it during past seasons
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and preparation of plan of campaign during coming season, (5) form, when operations are in progress, a commission of experts and representatives of both the Governments to study on the spot measures employed and to report to the technical departments concerned.

The Convention is to take effect from the date of ratification and shall remain valid for three years. It has not yet been ratified by the Iranian Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: When parts of Rajasthan and Punjab were recently attacked by these locusts three months ago, did any signatory country give us any information about the direction of the locusts or other information as laid down in this Convention?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The Convention has not yet been ratified. . . .

Sardar Hukam Singh: By Iran or by anybody?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: . . . but information is certainly given.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Which country gave us such information?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would like to have notice.

Shri Barma: Apart from this Convention, is there any international organisation so far as the control of locusts is concerned in the Middle East countries, and, if so, how does this Convention fit in with the rules and regulations of that?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): If I may answer the question, there is a well established international organisation so far as locust control is concerned and its terms and conditions are well known.