

[Shri A. C. Guha]

India under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. S-133/54.]

REPORT OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Mr. Speaker: Who is deputising for the Minister of Agriculture? He is not here.

Shri A. C. Guha: I shall do so, Sir.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of The Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1951-52. [Placed in Library. See No. S-132/54]

Mr. Speaker: That is all right for the present. But it is unsatisfactory. The Minister has to be present on such occasions.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT IMPORTANCE

FIRING BY FRENCH INDIAN POLICE NEAR MAHE

Mr. Speaker: We will now take up the notice under Rule 215 received from Shri Kotha Raghuramiah and Shri Nettur P. Damodaran, about firing by French Indian Police in Mahe on 26th April, 1954.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): According to the information received by the Government of India, the French Indian police opened fire on a group of Indian nationals while they were passing through Cheru Kallaye enclave of the French settlement of Mahe. This happened on the night of 26th April. As a result of the firing two Indian nationals are reported to have died. One of them, Shri Achuthan, was apparently killed immediately and his body was stated to have been buried by the French police. Another Indian subject, Shri Anandan, sustained bullet wounds and

he was removed to the hospital at Tellicherry in Indian territory, where he expired at noon on the 27th. Three other Indian nationals, Shri Govindan Adiody, Shri Kutty and Shri Mammooty are reported to have received serious injuries and are being treated in the Tellicherry hospital. According to information received later, Shri Achuthan's body has been recovered.

On receiving the report about this incident the Indian Consul General at Pondicherry lodged an immediate protest to the French Commissioner of the Republic. A similar protest was also lodged by the Ministry of External Affairs with the French Embassy here. The French Government has been requested to institute immediate inquiries into the incident and to take stringent measures against the French Indian police officials concerned and also to prevent a repetition of such high-handedness by the French Indian Police. They have also been requested to pay adequate compensation to the heirs of the deceased and to the persons who were injured. The Government of India's information is that the incident took place wholly in the French territory and not in Indian territory. All the same, the matter is of grave concern to the Government of India, as two Indian nationals have lost their lives and three others injured. We are awaiting a reply of the French Government to our protest.

The notice also refers to "the reported repeated violation of Indian territory by French officials from Mahe." As hon. Members are aware, the permit system which was introduced recently applies only in respect of Pondicherry and Karaikal, and not to Mahe and Yanam. In respect of these two latter settlements there is no ban on the entry into India of French Indian officials other than those belonging to the police force. As regards European officials in the French settlements, they have of