

sanctions against the Pretorial Regime to force that regime to give up its inhuman policy of apartheid and restore majority rule in South Africa was also discussed.

Tea Trading Corporation of India

817. SHRI ATAL BIHARI

VAJPAYEE;

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in "The Week" of July 13-19, 1986 wherein it has been alleged that (i) the Tea Trading Corporation of India has cheated Indian army about Rs. 50 lakhs by supplying about 206 tonnes of sub-standard tea; (ii) it has lost two regular clients in Libya and Tunisia by its sloppy dealings; (iii) since its inception in 1971, it has piled up irregular losses worth about Rs. 13 crores and that CBI enquiry into alleged dealings of its top officials was ordered but shelved midway through; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) In 1983-84 Tea Trading Corporation of India entered into contract for supply of approximately 3000 tonnes tea to Defence Department. Out of the supplies made around 100 tonnes were initially found unsuitable. This was later rectified by blending with fresh teas. The matter was investigated and appropriate action was taken against officers of TTCL.

The Corporation incurred losses in respect of its tea supplies to Libya and Tunisia. They have at present no orders for supply of tea to these countries.

As on 31st March, 1985, accumulated losses of the Corporation were Rs. 12.95 crores.

Central Bureau of Investigations is investigating into certain alleged irregular dealings of some of the officers of Corporation. The investigations are in progress.

Resumption of business by the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited

818. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after receiving a judgement in its favour from the Calcutta High Court, the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company, Calcutta, has not been able to resume its normal functioning, as a result of which thousands of depositors have not received their money even after maturity; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for safeguarding the interests of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Subsequent to enactment of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978, the State Government of West Bengal served a notice on M/s. Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited, Calcutta in 1979 asking the Company to submit a winding up plan. The Company had moved the Calcutta High Court by filing a writ petition and obtained a stay order restraining the State Government of West Bengal from proceeding further in the matter. Since the Company has continued to function on the basis of the stay order earlier obtained by it from the Calcutta High Court, the recent judgement delivered by the Calcutta High Court upholding the appeal of the Company and quashing the notice served by the State Gov-