

SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRI D. AMAT :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the further steps taken to trace the missing Indian Cargo Vessel S. S. 'Mahajagmitra' in the Bay of Bengal in November last ; and

(b) the result thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIIH) :**

(a) and (b). Diplomatic clearance from the Governments of Pakistan and Burma has been asked for our aircrafts to fly over their territories in a further search of the vessel 'Maha'agmitra'. Meanwhile instructions are being given to the Airforce for the search in our territorial waters.

**Investigation into Various Allegations
against National Fitness Corps**

5245. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a top retired Government official has been appointed to investigate into the various allegations made against the National Fitness Corps ;

(b) if so, the terms of reference for this investigations ; and

(c) what will be the fate of employees during the pendency of such investigations ?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V.
RAO) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of resolution dated the 28th October, 1970 containing the terms of reference is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4639/70.*]

(c) To the extent any action depends on the findings of the one-man Commission, it will be deferred until Government's decision on the findings are known. Otherwise the National Fitness Corps Directorate will function according to the programme already earmarked for it.

**Advancing of Loans to Small Traders by
Nationalised Banks**

5246. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that clear instructions to issue loans to Small Traders from various nationalised banks have not yet been issued ;

(b) if so, the reasons for this delay ; and

(c) if issued, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI
Y. B. CHAVAN) :** (a) to (c) After the nationalisation of 14 major commercial banks, the Government and the Reserve Bank of India have been repeatedly exhorting the Custodians of the Banks to adopt a liberalised policy in respect of hitherto neglected sectors like retail traders, self-employed persons, artisans, farmers, road transport operators etc. The matter had also been discussed at the various meetings of the Coordination Committee of the public sector banks. I have also impressed upon the Custodians the need to give credit liberally to these sectors, during my meetings with them on 2nd July, 1970 and 4th November, 1970. The nationalised banks have prepared suitable schemes and are extending credit liberally to these sectors. At the end of August, 1970, the nationalised banks have given loans in this category (retail traders and small business) to 94,032 accounts with an outstanding of Rs. 45.46 crores.

**Comparative study of States Budget by
Reserve Bank of India**

5247. **SHRI R. K. BIRLA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has recently made a comparative study of this year's budgets of all the States ; and

(b) if so, the details of the study State-wise ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA
CHARAN SHUKLA) :** (a) and (b). The required information is of a voluminous nature. Such studies are made by the Reserve Bank of India annually and published in their monthly bulletin. The Reserve Bank of India Bulletin of August, 1970 con-