

can protect themselves against attacks by the Mizo hostiles. Every possible care will be taken to see that this assistance is not misused.

It would not be in public interest to disclose details of the scheme relating to arms and ammunition, training, vigilance etc.

#### Re-Poll in West Bengal

671. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for a re-poll in West Bengal has been received from any source;

(b) the legal advice given to Government in this respect; and

(c) by what time a final decision in this respect is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):  
(a) Certain political parties and individuals have suggested a mid-term poll in West Bengal.

(b) No legal advice has been sought in the matter.

(c) The Central Government have no proposal regarding a mid-term poll in West Bengal under consideration.

#### Indian Science Congress

672. SHRI DEIVEEKAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering certain scheme to make the Indian Science Congress Association an effective organisation for the popularization of science and creating a scientific temper in the country;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to popularise science in the country;

(c) whether a proposal for adoption of regional languages for the propaga-

tion of science to teach the masses is also under consideration; and

(d) the progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The present policy is that the regional languages should be the medium of instruction for all subjects including science. The policy is being implemented in stages by all States.

#### Sales Tax on Betel Leaf in Delhi

673. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether opinion of Law Ministry was sought by the Delhi Administration on the question whether Pan selling was a manufacturing industry in relation to their proposal to impose Sales Tax on betel leaf;

(b) what is Government's view in regard to this question;

(c) whether Government have approved the Delhi Administration's proposal to impose Sales Tax on betel leaf in Delhi; and

(d) if so, whether Government have gone into the practicability and desirability of enforcement of this tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):  
(a) and (b). The Delhi Administration desired to have the opinion of the Ministry of Law on the point whether betel leaf can be said to have undergone a process of manufacture when it is made into "pan" for chewing. They were advised that prepared "pan" cannot be said to have undergone such a process.