

sored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, a sum of Rs. 41.25 crores has already been released to the States and Union Territories as the first instalment during the year 1980-81. The Second instalment of like amount will be released during the current year on completion of procedural formalities. High priority has been accorded to provide safe drinking water to all the problem villages in the country during the Sixth Plan period (1980—85).

Central School at Leh

1849. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had sanctioned the opening of a Central School in Leh in 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Kashmir Government has refused to provide accommodation and land for starting the said School; and

(c) if so, what is the present position and when the school would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had agreed, in principle, in April, 1979, to start a Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) at Leh. Issues relating to availability of land and building are being negotiated with the State Government. The Vidyalaya can be started after these issues are settled.

Shortage of Snakes

1850. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Snakes are the rage these days the more poisonous they are the better and they could fetch a pocket, as more and

more people are taking to 'Snake-yagna' particularly in Southern States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the snakemen are experiencing acute shortages of snakes and it is to the extent that any one giving information about snakes hideout is suitably rewarded by 'Yagna' organisers; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). The required material is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as received.

Institutional Credit Outstanding against Rural Rich

1851. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently the total institutional credit outstanding in the name of the rural rich is about Rs. 8500 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these rural rich that have cornered most of the credit facilities in the rural sector continue to exploit the rural poor by refusing to pay them even the minimum wages fixed by various State Governments; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rural poor generally find no place in national or rural credit system?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) No, Sir. The total outstanding loans advanced by primary cooperative societies, land development banks, commercial banks and regional rural