

Celebration of World Food Day

2679. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has celebrated World Food Day recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the objectives set therein and achieved, so far, State-wise, especially in Madhya Pradesh and the funds earmarked and spent, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Food Day (WFD) was celebrated this year on 17th October. Theme for this year's WFD was "Food Prices: From Crisis to Stability." Message of Union Agriculture Minister on this occasion was published in leading newspapers throughout the country. Besides, a roundtable discussion on the WFD theme was organized on 17 October, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission.

(c) There is no state-wise specific objective set for this purpose including for Madhya Pradesh. Central Government does not earmark any funds to States for observation of this Day.

Vegetables Initiative for Urban Clusters

2680. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress of Vegetables Initiative for Urban Clusters announced by the Ministry; and
- (b) the amount spent since its inception, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) During 2011-12, Government has launched a new programme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) with an outlay of Rs. 300 crore, within the overall aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Scheme is being implemented in one city each of 29 States which is either the State capital or any other city with a population of over one million. If there is no city which satisfies these criteria, then other urban cluster closer to one million populations has been allowed to be selected for the purpose. Initially, the programme will be implemented for a period of one year (2011-12). Following progress has been made by the Ministry of Agriculture under Vegetables Initiative for Urban Clusters:—