

**12.25 hrs.**

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 \***

MR. SPEAKER: Now, so far as Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, are concerned, they will be treated as laid on the Table.

Title: Need to ensure increased public investment in agriculture and open the sector for direct foreign investment.-  
Laid.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (BAPATLA) : The agriculture has suffered from decreasing public investment during last one decade resulting in a sharp fall in agricultural productivity and yield. Poor quality seeds and fertilizers, erratic power supply and fall in institutional credit and in growth of irrigation infrastructure resulted in steep fall in rural employment generation from 1.7% per annum to 0.5% per annum. These factors ultimately affect the farmers community who are hard hit and often take the extreme steps of committing suicides.

I, therefore, request the Government to take steps to ensure increased public investment in agriculture, stress on organic farming, improvement of storage and transport facilities and reviving irrigation potentials which are some of the priorities, the Government should look into immediately. If need be, the Government should open the agriculture sector to foreign direct investment to improve rural life and employment generation in rural areas.

An early consideration and implementation of the above suggestions would give an impetus to rural development in the country in general and Andhra Pradesh specifically.

\* Treated as laid on the Table.