

**Title:** Need to take concrete steps to stop atrocities on SCs/STs

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Almost 54 years after Independence, untouchability still prevails in various forms, and atrocities on SCs and STs occur with regular monotony in most parts of the country. The most usual practice of upper castes is to prevent the entry of the dalits into temples. The untouchability is prevalent in a number of villages of the country. The Union Government should, therefore, take steps to enquire whenever the issues of untouchability and atrocities against SCs/STs are reported and also suggest measures to eradicate untouchability, as the incidents of untouchability and atrocities on the dalits have been alarmingly high. I am sorry to state that the caste discrimination still persists and the Government must take initiative to ensure stopping if forthwith. The amount of compensation to dalits killed in such offences should be increased considerably.