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Title: Need to take steps to check atrocities on Dalits and set up a separate Ministry for the welfare of Backward Caste people. – Laid.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Although untouchability stands abolished under the Constitution of India, but even after 58 years of independence it is still virulent, assuming dangerous proportions. Atrocities against Dalits as well as unsociability are on the increase across the country. I quote some latest harrowing instance stating how the Dalits are being treated in this free country even after 58 years of independence. Crimes against a Dalit youth in Bedkalan village in Pali district of Rajasthan and a Dalit woman in Munger district in Bihar are some of the reported incidents.

Sir, the BCs who form 54 per cent of the country population have no separate body for their welfare.

I urge upon the Government to set up BC department and form a Ministry specially for BC welfare.