

Title: Need to ensure transparency in awarding the contracts to operators for the safely Haj pilgrimage.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): It is the feeling of regret and dismay ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Bansal says.

(Interruptions) ... (Not recorded)

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्भल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम आपकी बहुत इज्जत करते हैं....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, it is a feeling of dismay and regret that overtakes me.... (Interruptions) Sir, when a Member from their Party spoke, we kept quiet.... (Interruptions) They are violating the Private Members" right.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): When a Member from their side spoke, they kept quiet. Now, when Shri Bansal is speaking, they have started shouting. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have taken serious note of this. I have warned them also. If Shri Mulayam Singh wants me to name them, I will not hesitate to do that. I will name them but not now. I have given them the last chance.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, it is with a feeling of regret that I have to refer... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When I allowed a Member from your Party to speak, they all kept quiet. When Members from other Parties are speaking, they start shouting. I request you, you are a senior leader of one of the leading Parties of this country, to ask your Members not to interrupt. You were partially successful in withholding the Question Hour. That is not good.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, it is not the Government Business which they are interrupting. They are interrupting the Private Members" right.... (Interruptions) What are they doing? What is the item before the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, it is with a feeling of regret and dismay that I have to refer to a matter which could ultimately take off the lid another scam. It could be a scam in the making.

Last year, over 77,000 Haj pilgrims took up the pilgrimage. The planes, as they turned out to be later, were over 25 years old and precisely, keeping in view the safety of the passengers as also the need to have low fares, the hon. Minister then directed that a fresh tender had to be called for...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : That was done but somehow the needed transparency in the matter was lacking and again we learn that the same operators are being given the tender whereas other operators had offered comparatively new planes....(Interruptions)...It is not my concern as to who is the operator but it is certainly the concern of this House and everybody's concern that the safety of the passengers who are to undertake Haj pilgrimage should be secured and Government must come out with a clear declaration that safer planes shall be used for this purpose. There should be utter transparency in awarding the contract to any operator. It is also imperative that the poor people who undertake the Haj pilgrimage are charged the least possible fare. When they have to pay heavy amount and when this Government also provides a subsidy, it is the right of this House to know from the Government as to what is being done.

Sir, at this moment, I do not want to raise an accusing finger against anybody but certainly what comes out in the papers and from what little we have learnt about it, we feel that there is much to be desired as the requisite principle of transparency has been given a go-by. This is my submission, through you Sir, to the House...(Interruptions)