

Akhilesh Das offered Rs 100 crore for Rajya Sabha ticket, alleges Mayawati

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LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has alleged that her former colleague Akhilesh Das offered 100 crore to facilitate his reentry into the Rajya Sabha. Das retaliated by alleging that it was well-known that BSP sought money for allotting seats and the truth was the opposite of what Mayawati alleged.



("Akhilesh Das had talked...")

Addressing a news conference in Lucknow on Wednesday, Mayawati alleged that Akhilesh Das met her in Delhi and offered 50-100 crore if he was given another term to the Rajya Sabha. "Das first offered me 50 crore to nominate him for the Rajya Sabha polls and when I refused, he raised it to 100 crore. I turned down the offer and told him that only old timers and dedicated leaders of BSP can be sent to the Rajya Sabha. I clearly told him that this time the party can only send two members to the Upper House and both will be from the Dalit community. But he kept offering me money, saying it will help me run the party. But BSP has stuck to its decision and we have nominated dedicated leaders Veer Singh and Raja Ram who have worked tirelessly for the party to the Rajya Sabha," Mayawati said.

She claimed that BSP didn't need funds from 'moneybags' and collected small donations from poor and neglected sections of the society for survival. She alleged that Das was not a serious politician and after promising to work for BSP, when he joined it in 2008, he had failed to do so.

"Instead of focusing on party work he was busy in his own interests and failed to get Vaishya votes for BSP. Even at the time of leaving Congress to join BSP Das had made allegations against Rahul Gandhi," Mayawati said.

She denied that her move to send only Dalits to the Rajya Sabha was based on caste basis. BSP receives support from all castes and communities but since only two members can be sent to the Upper House this time, BSP would send only Dalits to the Rajya Sabha this time, she added.

Das hit back soon after Mayawati's news conference. "It is well known that in BSP rates are fixed for an assembly ticket, Lok Sabha ticket and even Rajya Sabha berth. Mayawati openly demands Rs 50 lakh for giving an assembly ticket and Rs 1 crore for a Lok Sabha ticket," Das alleged. He claimed that his meeting with Mayawati happened behind closed doors and what Mayawati alleged was the opposite of what happened.