

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 31, 1976/Bhadra 9,  
1898 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the said demise of Kazi Nazrul Islam, the famous poet, who passed away at Dacca on the 29th August, 1976 at the age of 77.

Born at Churlia village in Burdwan district of West Bengal, Kazi Nazrul Islam attained proficiency in Persian, Sanskrit and Urdu at an early age and he started composing songs for a village folk-song party, which gave expression to his poetic calibre and patriotic spirit. Inbued with revolutionary ideas and love for the Liberation of his country, Kazi Nazrul Islam joined the 49th Bengali Regiment in which he served for a brief period till the disbandment of this regiment in 1920. Later, he devoted himself completely to the writing of short stories, dramas and novels which carried the stamp of his revolutionary spirit and ideas and his powerful poetry earned him praise of all. He served as an editor of "Naba Yug", a Bengali daily, for some time and later he worked for "Sevak". Subsequently he started his own weekly "Dhumketu" wherein he wrote his editorials in verse to arouse the spirit of the masses for liberty and independence. He was prosecuted and sent to jail on charges of sedition where he went on a hunger strike lasting 41 days. Ultimately, poet Rabindranath Tagore persuaded him to give up the fast on the

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ground "our literature claims you". Typically secular in his outlook and actions, Kazi Nazrul Islam married a Hindu lady but did not compel her to change her religion. He also used to worship Goddess Kali. After his marriage he took interest in politics and helped forming the "Labour Swaraj Party" which was subsequently known as "Workers' and Peasants' Party".

A great poet of his times, Kazi Nazrul Islam was a pioneer of martial songs which infused national spirit by turning the Bengali language into a vibrant and roaring torrent of expression.

We deeply mourn the loss of this great poet whose writings and poems will keep his name and fame alive for generation to come. I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The members then stood in silence for a short while.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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#### Decision on holding General Elections

\*282. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:  
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have taken a decision to hold general elections in 1977?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): No decision about the holding of general elections due in 1977 has been taken so far by the Government.