

## 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.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** The answer implies that the election is due in 1977. It is reported in the press that in the other House, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, said that the elections will not be postponed further. Will the hon. minister take this House into confidence and tell us whether the elections will be held as early as possible?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE:** The hon. member said that the answer implies that elections are due in 1977. That is only the constitutional provision. With regard to the statement made by my colleague, Dr. Seyid Muhammad, I do not think that he said that elections will not be postponed. All that he said as far as I could read from the script of his speech in the Rajya Sabha, was that they will be held early. But sometimes such an innocent statement also is taken advantage of by undesirable elements to the country. I do not think my colleague committed himself to one position or the other.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Now in his answer to my supplementary he is wriggling out. I think in the original answer there was some sort of commitment. Now he is getting out of the commitment. I want to know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to postpone the elections beyond the due date?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE:** As I said just now, there is no proposal at the moment under consideration, either to hold the elections or to postpone the elections.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the decision to hold the elections depends on the question of continuation or revocation of the emergency and if the emergency continues whether the elections will be held only later. I know it is the Prime

Minister's prerogative, but does it depend on the continuation of the emergency or not?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE:** Various factors are to be taken into account before a decision is taken on the question whether the elections should be held or not. As the hon. Member knows, in the past also elections had been held in emergencies. The existence of the emergency is only one of the factors which is taken into account,

#### Railway Lines in Hilly and Backward Areas

\*283. **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay during the Fifth Five Year Plan railway lines in hilly, backward and un-connected areas in the country for their development; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) and (b). Two statements one showing the new lines/restorations which are at present under construction or have been approved for construction and the other showing survey works in progress for construction of new lines in various States, are laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11812/76.] All these lines are located in backward areas and some are in hilly areas.

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि नयी लाइन बनाने के लिए जो प्राप सर्वे कराते हैं उसके लिए क्या रेलवे विभाग स्वतः जांच करता है कि कौन सा इलाका पिछड़ा हुआ है, कौन सा पर्वतीय क्षेत्र है या इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकारों से सूचना प्राप्त होती है ? इसके सर्वेक्षण का क्या आधार है ?