

# Somnath Chatterjee Passed Away at 89 - 5 More Things Never to Forget About!

Somnath Chatterjee, former Lok Sabha Speaker passed away recently. The former Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader's health condition had got worse on Sunday and was admitted to a hospital in Kolkata. Chatterjee had also earlier suffered a hemorrhagic stroke in June this year, post which his health declined. **As a tribute to Somnath Chatterjee, let's recall 5 Important Facts associated with his life and work.**

## 5 Facts about Late Somnath Chatterjee & Why He Will Always be Revered

### #1. Lok Sabha Speaker from 2004 to 2009

Somnath Chatterjee, who was member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), served as Lok Sabha Speaker from 2004 to 2009 during the UPA-I rule. He was earlier appointed as the pro tem speaker and subsequently was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 14th Lok Sabha. He was the 2nd pro tem Speaker after Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar to achieve this feat. During his tenure as the Speaker, Chatterjee discontinued the practice of paying for toiletries and tea from the national exchequer.

### #2. One of the Longest-Serving MP

Somnath Chatterjee was one of the longest-serving parliamentarians, a ten-time Lok Sabha MP, from 1971 to 2009, except, the 1984 election where he was defeated by Mamata Banerjee. He was elected for 1st time as an independent candidate supported

by the CPI (M). President Ram Nath Kovind has stated his death as ‘a loss for public life in Bengal and India.’

### **#3. Outstanding Parliamentarian Award**

In 1996, he was honoured with the 'Outstanding Parliamentarian Award' for his remarkable contribution in the Indian Parliament'. Instituted in 1992, The 'Outstanding Parliamentarian Award' is an award given by the Indian Parliamentary Group to an outstanding sitting Member of the Indian Parliament.

### **#4. Advocate Turned Politician**

Before joining politics in 1968 he was an advocate by profession. He was called to the bar from the Middle Temple in London and took up legal practice as an advocate at the Calcutta High Court before joining active politics.

### **#5. Expelled from CPI-M**

Somnath Chatterjee was expelled from the CPI-M membership, for not resigning as the Speaker after the party withdrew its support to the UPA alliance. According to Chatterjee, the expulsion was “one of the saddest days” of his life and he retired from active politics in 2009.

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