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14.11 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Matters under rule 377 listed for today may be laid on the Table of the House.

Title: Need to issue a commemorative stamp in honour of Late Shri Viswanatha Doss, a great patriot and stage actor of pre-Independence era-Laid.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Sir, Viswanatha Doss, a prominent and a versatile stage actor of Tamil Nadu was born on 16 June 1886 at Sivakasi. He met Mahatma Gandhi in the year 1916 at Thoothukudi. Inspired by the leadership of Mahatmaji he joined the freedom movement. Whenever and wherever he acted in Purana dramas like –'Harishchandra', 'Valli Thirumanam', 'Kovalam' and 'Kannagi' in the midst of the plays he took the opportunity for espousing the cause of freedom struggle and also against the then ruling Britishers which received unstinting and welcome support and repeated reception from the audiences.

For singing patriotic songs in the midst of dramas against Britishers he was arrested more than 15 times in his life. Songs like "white birds are flying" and "tricolour flagship is visible" were given thunderous applauses by the audience.

He also sacrificed his entire property for the cause of the freedom struggle.

He died on 31 December 1940 on the stage while acting for the play 'Lord Muruga'.

The Tamil Nadu Government has built one Kalyana Mandabam and a library which are named after him in Tirumangalam where he lived.

It would be a befitting tribute to him, if our Government arranges to issue a commemorative stamp in honour of Late Viswanatha Doss, the great patriot.

* Treated as laid on the Table.
