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Title : Need to release a commemorative stamp on 14.1.2006 in honour of great farmer 'Kalinga Gounder' of Erode district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century one "Lingaiyan" was born to Nanjaigounder and Pappayee at Kanagapuram in Vellode, Erode District. During AD 1251-1271, the whole of Southern India was ruled by the ruler Sadayavarman Sunderapandiyan. During his regime Kongu region was ruled by Veerapandiyan. The Kongu region was situated on both sides of the River Cauvery. Kalingarayan was appointed as Member, Advisory Committee in Veerapandiyan kingdom.

During that time, the Kongu region was a dry area. There were no irrigation facilities. Kalingarayan explained the necessity of constructing a Dam at the juncture of Bhavani and Cauvery River. The Dam was constructed with 1840 vents for irrigating 3459 acres. Now the Dam is called as "Kalingarayan Dam" and the canal is called as "Kalingarayan Canal." The work was appreciated by national and international technicians and experts.

Before 740 years, Kalingarayan was able to construct the dam and convert the dry lands into wet lands. 740<sup>th</sup> year of the Dam falls on 14.1.2006. While appreciating the great achievement of Kalingarayan, he was honoured as "Kalingaraya Gounder" by the public.

To appreciate his venture for developing the agriculture in this country, I request the hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology to release a commemorative stamp and First Day Cover on 14.1.2006 and honour the great farmer "Kalingara Gounder."