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Title: Need to release a Postal Stamp and a 'First Day Cover' in memory of Thillaiyadi Valliammai, an associate of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, this is the 100th year of Satyagraha Movement started by Mahatmaji in South Africa. **Thillaiyadi Valliammai** who was born on 22-2-1898 at Thilaiyad to Sri Munusamy Mudaliar and Smt. Mangalam Janaki was one of the earliest associates of Mahatma Gandhi. Basically her parents were weavers and they carried their weaving profession at Thillaiyadi in Tamilnadu. Since weaving profession was totally neglected, they decided to go abroad for achieving excellence. They left to South Africa as coolies and got settled at Johnnesberg. In the year 1893, Dada Abdulla Company requested Mahatmaji to plead a case on their behalf. After reaching South Africa on seeing this kind of slavery, Mahatma Gandhi decided to stay for a further period to two years to solve the problem of slavery. On 11th September 1906, Gandhiji convened a meeting of Indians and local people. Nearly 3,000 people participated in that meeting. It was decided to agitate through Ahimsa. Due to the intervention of Gokaley, a compromise was arrived between Gandhiji and General Smartz in October 1912. As per the compromise, the Black Act enacted by General Smartz for payment of three sovereign on each Indian was cancelled. On 14th March 1913, Justice Shiarley declared all the marriages conducted other than the marriages

* Treated as laid on the Table

conducted as per local Law were null and void. It badly affected the Indian women. All the Indian community and others started an agitation against the judgment. The agitation was started by Gandhiji. For all these agitations, the small girl, Valliammai participated and delivered lectures. During the age of eleven, even though she was sick, she traveled all the places Viz., New Castle, Charles town, Dando, Ladismith, Maritsbark, Durban along with Kasturba Gandhi and conducted the meeting. On 22 December 1913, she was arrested by police and convicted for three months. She was lodged in Maritsberg Jail.

Day by day her health condition deteriorated. Since then, her condition became very bad and she was released on 11th February 1914. She was taken to home and she passed away 22nd February 1914.

She worked with Gandhiji in the early years when he tuned his non-violent methods in South Africa, fighting the apartheid there and Gandhiji has himself admitted that her sacrifice has increased his resolve to fight against the Britishers.

To honour such a women patriot, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Communications and IT to release a Special Postage Stamp and a First Day Cover which will fulfill long pending dream of the Tamil people.