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Title: Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' Award on Dr. Kalaignar Muthuvel Karunanidhi, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): It is a demand of more than 10 crore Tamilians across the globe to honour their beloved leader, Dr.Kalaignar Muthuvel Karunanidhi with Bharat Ratna.

Dr. Kalaignar Muthuvel Karunanidhi, people call him affectionately as Dr. Kalaignar, started his political carrier at the very tender age of 14 years to serve the people. He is the champion of the dravidian movement, champion for the cause of downtrodden and for all sections of people. He has been a Member of Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu since 1957 and has never been defeated in any election so far.

He was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five times. During his tenure as Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar had introduced many welfare schemes for the people and those scheme were introduced for the first time in India such as Abolition of hand- pulled rickshaws and replaced them with cycle rickshaw, scheme for rehabilitation of beggars, abolition of manual scavengers, etc. and introduced many other social reforms.

At the same time, he has given equal importance to Tamil literature while taking part in active politics. He has written hundreds of books/novels/poems both of historical and social nature in Tamil. His contribution to Tamil Cinema is second to none as he is a screen writer too and written for more than 75 films. He is a great statesman, great poet, great scholar and octogenarian leader and even at the age of 91 he is actively involved in both national and state politics for the unity and integrity of this country. I am confident that there is no other leader in the country serving the nation at the age of 91 championing the cause of all sections of people.

It will be a privilege for the nation to honour its son with Bharat Ratna. His contribution to the nation is immense. He is a Gem in literature, politics, cinema, social reforms and in many other fields.

I am confident that the entire House shall join me for honouring the great leader, Dr.Kalaignar with Bharat Ratna, and therefore, I urge upon the government to confer Bharat Ratna on Dr.Kalaignar Muthuvel Karunanidhi as he is the most deserving personality for this great honour.

