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Title: Need to declare 15th July, the birthday of Shri K. Kamaraj as 'National Day' befitting his status, linking it with Mid-day Meal Scheme, throughout the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): In our great country, we have been celebrating time and again the birth and memories of our iconic leaders to honour their birth and yeoman services. This is invariably being done to recall and remember their selfless services and supreme sacrifices to the nation.

The birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhiji is being celebrated as then on-violence day throughout the world. The birth day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is honoured as the Children's Day. Former President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, a philosopher and professor, is commemorated as Teacher's Day.

Shri K. Kamaraj the National Leader has pioneered 900 new elementary schools and introduced the mid-day meals scheme in schools in Tamil Nadu when he was the Chief Minister during 1954-1963. This scheme has increasingly enabled and encouraged the number of children to attend schools by way of incentives as their food need is duly taken care of by the State. Shri K.Kamaraj was instrumental for choosing successive titanic Prime Ministers, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Madam Indira Gandhi.

The Union Government under this mid-day meals scheme provides 10.52 crore children hot-cooked and healthy meals in 12.18 lakh elementary schools across the length and breadth of the country.

In Tamil Nadu, the State government has declared July 15th the Birth Day of Shri K. Kamaraj as Education Development Day. May I therefore urge upon the Government of India and propose it with all humility to honour the memory of this illustrious son of India by celebrating 15th July as National Day befitting his status linking it with the Mid-day-Meal Scheme throughout the country.