

# Kalingarayan remembered

**By Our Staff Reporter**

**ERODE, SEPT. 5.** It was the efforts of Kalingarayan, a zamindar of Erode district that had benefited over thousand families of farmers.

He constructed the 90-km Kalingarayan Canal from Kalingarayanpalayam to Noyyal here that catered to 15,000 acres, the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, said.

Unveiling the portrait of Kalingarayan today and releasing the book, *Kalingarayan Kadhai*, written by Baskaradhasan of Erode district, the Minister said that Kalingarayan, after the construction of the canal, had announced that their family would never use the canal.

For over 700 years, his heirs had used neither the land in Kalingarayan ayacut nor the water. Expressing concern she said that the water once used for do-

mestic purposes was now unfit for human or cattle consumption due to large scale discharging of effluents from dyeing units and tanneries. A sum of Rs. 2 crores had already been given for desilting the canal, she added.

Film actors, R. Sivakumar and Sathyaraj spoke. The latter, one of the legal heirs of Kalingarayan, announced that he would provide financial assistance for installing a life-size statue of Kalingarayan in the district.

The president of the Erode District Consumers Protection Council, S.K.M. Maeilanandhen, presided, Kongu Research Centre founder, Pulavar Rasu, and the Managing Director of Sakthi Masala, P.C. Duraisamy, also spoke.