

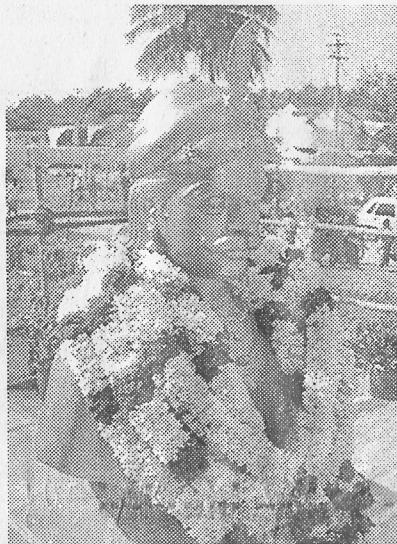
Stamp on Kalingarayan planned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Erode, Jan 19: Informing that the Centre has agreed to release a commemorative stamp on Kalingarayan, a 13th century chieftain of Kongu region, Handloom Minister NKKP Raja said he would, on his part, take steps to erect his life-size statue here.

Unveiling a statue of the chieftain, who had served the army of Pandya King Veerapandiyar, at Vellodu today, he thanked Palani MP S K Karvendan for taking steps to release the stamp which would be released at a function on VOC Ground shortly.

The help of some organisations would be sought to erect Kalingarayan's life-size statue or the government itself would take responsibility for such work since he was a pioneer in river water integration by digging a 56-km canal between Bavani and Noyyal rivers.



"Now the canal and the check dam named after him, constructed by him across Bavani river, irrigates over 15,000 acres of land. Without expecting any return or

having any modern know-how, the chieftain did this service for the betterment of farmers. So we must take responsibility to protect this canal which has been badly affected due to the letting of untreated industrial effluents," he pleaded.

Praising the Modakurichi MLA R M Palanisamy for restoring the canal to its original position, he said the government is committed to fulfil his ambition as many people, around the canal, are suffering from various diseases linked to pollution.

Lawmaker S K Karvendan, MLAs R M Palanisamy, Vidiyal Sekar, panchayat union chairman K Chinnasamy, district panchayat member Mani, Thenmugam Velloldu Sathanthai Kulam Rasaswamy Narpani Mandram president N T Kannusamy, historian Pulavar S Raju, Sidharth Kalingarayar, panchayat presidents K A Magudeswaran and Chandrakala attended.