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Title: Need to rename the present Mid-day Meal Scheme as 'Kamaraj Mid-day Meal Scheme'.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): At present, Mid-day Meal Scheme is being implemented in various schools which provide/distribute free Mid-day Meals to poor school children. It was first introduced by late Shri Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu when he was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during 1954-1963 and later implemented throughout the country and introduced the mid-day meal scheme to provide at least one meal per day to the lakhs of poor school children (which is first time in the world). He introduced free school uniforms to weed out caste, creed and class distinctions among the youth minds. During his term the literacy rate was reached 37% from 7%.

Shri Kamaraj had a vast knowledge and brilliance in many fields and was called by unlettered genius'.

In remembering and honouring the works done by Kamaraj, he was awarded 'Bharat Ratna' posthumously by the Union Government in 1976. The Chennai airport was renamed as "Kamaraj Terminal and Madurai University was named as "Madurai Kamaraj University", Chennai Beach Road was renamed 'Kamarajar Salai' and Bengaluru's North Parade Road was renamed 'K. Kamaraj Road'.

In view of the above, if the present Mid-day Meal Scheme is named after 'Kamaraj Mid-day Meal Scheme' it will be a befitting tribute to him in bringing renaissance in spread of education in rural areas, abolition of class distinctions among the youth throughout the country. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to rename the present Mid-day Meal Scheme in the country as 'Kamaraj Mid-day Meal Scheme'.