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Title: Need to implement the scheme of communal harmony which has been introduced and successfully implemented by the Government of Maharashtra in order to prevent communal riots in the country.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, there have been repeated communal riots in various part of our country due to various reasons. The Government of Maharashtra has appointed a team to study the root causes of communal riots in various parts of Maharashtra. The study team - under the eminent police officer, Shri R.T. Rathod who is Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai – after study had arrived at the conclusion that the religious processions taken out at the time of religious festivals were the origin and root causes of communal riots. Many times, religious festivals like Ganapati Puja, Moharram, Shiv Jayanti and Ramzan are coincided and celebrated at the same time. These festivals are celebrated with traditional rites such as idol processions, routine daily worship, reading of religious holy books, sandal procession and Urs etc.

Due to these festivals and the religious procession, tensions between the two communities arise which exist throughout the year and some fundamentalists try to find out miscellaneous reasons to cause serious communal riots. Majority of the people from both the religions do not like riots to occur. However, specific few communal-minded people, through their provocative speeches and due to one reason or the other, try to create communal tensions.

In order to prevent communal riots and to develop communal harmony and friendly atmosphere among the people of all religions, a Communal Harmony Scheme had been implemented in some parts of Maharashtra. There was a tremendous response from the public and excellent results came in preventing communal riots and to develop communal harmony.

Sir, the Government of Maharashtra had passed a resolution to implement the Communal Harmony Scheme under the leadership of Shri R.T. Rathod, who is Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai. It was successfully implemented throughout the State of Maharashtra. The National Police Academy, Hyderabad also adopted this scheme. So, I would request the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to implement this Scheme throughout the country.