

Talaq Mukti Morcha in Maharashtra

THE Muslim Satyashodhak Samaj, a Muslim social reform collective, launched a Talaq Mukti Morcha on November 3, 1985, starting from Kolhapur and going on to tour several districts of Maharashtra. A poster exhibition was held by the Federation of Indian Women and

day, at Nanded, stones were thrown at the processionists. Conditions at Jalgaon were similar.

At Ahmadnagar, the bus in which the Morcha participants were travelling was stoned. Inflammatory writings against the Morcha flags were waved. Tension prevailed in the



AITUC workers' centre. Posters highlighted the fact that many Islamic countries have changed the laws to give women more rights than Muslim women in India have. For instance, in Egypt a Muslim wife has the right to seek divorce if her husband remarries, and she can press for maintenance for her children and herself. She and her children retain their inheritance rights. In Pakistan, no man can remarry without the permission of the Arbitration Council. About 3,000 people visited the exhibition.

The Morcha, consisting of 14 men, 19 women, of whom four were divorced, and 10 children, proceeded to Miraj where they were to be seen on the walls. Black flags greeted them and at Parbhani they were surrounded by a 400 strong mob. The following

town. A mob, including 800 women, surrounded the district commissioner's office and prevented the Morcha from submitting a memorandum there. At Srirampur and Nasik, the Morcha had to be called off in view of the impending possibility of communal riots.

An exception to the resistance the Morcha encountered was at Amraoti where nearly 500 Muslim women, including 100 divorced women, joined the participants. They came forward to tell their own life stories.

Wherever the Morcha went, the poster exhibition was put up. Nearly 1,000 people saw it. The Morcha returned to Kolhapur on November 19, 1985. It was decided to reassemble in Nagpur in January 1986 when the Vidhan Sabha is in session. It was also decided that the Morcha would

revisit those places which it could not visit earlier, due to unsettled conditions. A visit to New Delhi in March 1986 is being contemplated.

—Dilip Shikhare

(Translated from Hindi)

Shopping

*I am a divorcee,
Thirty odd years and lonely,
I need a companion,
So, where shall I look for a wife,
please?
I have growing children,
Who need mothering,
While I go out and earn,
So, where shall I look for a wife
please?
I have to heed my doctor's caution,
I need timely meals and medication,
And a nurse for administration,
So, where shall I look for a wife,
please?
I have a good job and salary,
I will not ask for gold and dowry,
I promise, no drinks and battery,
So where shall I look for a wife
please?
I will love, cherish and honour,
We will have good times together
An ideal family, what more can a man
offer?
So where shall I look for a wife,
please?
Shall I place an ad in the paper?
Or can you suggest somebody,
Smart but subdued, strong but
demure,
So, where shall I look for a wife
please?
I don't need a husband, no never
again,
Who can fuck me and kick me around,
I know, for I have been down there.
So, where shall I look for a wife
please?
A wife tailor made to suit every need,
A doormat and sex toy rolled in one.
Bonded labour, child producing
machine,
So, who would not like a wife please?*

—Flavia