

THE LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SHE

OCTOBER 1997 PRICE Rs. 75

MOTHER TERESA
HER MISSION IN
PAKISTAN

Fish for Thought
The Best Seafood Recipes
The Newest Lahori Eateries

THE SHARJAH CUP
AN ESCAPE TO DUBAI

DAREDEVILS SPEAK OUT
WHY THEY TAKE THE RISKS

The 20th Century Slave Trade
Bengali Women in Pakistan

The Cool
& the Hot
Fashions for Every Mood

Soft Tone Makeup by Shamain

Bold and Brassy: Hadiqa on life, love and ambition

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Hadiqa Kiyani

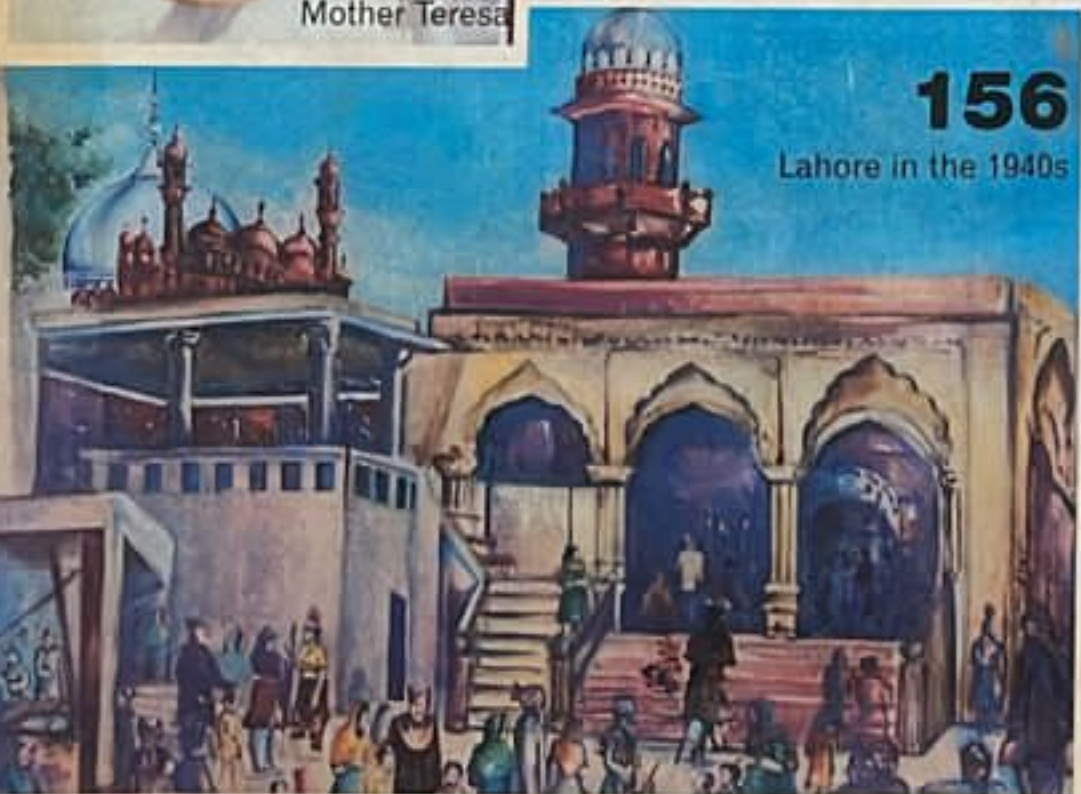
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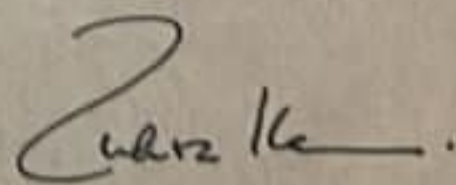
Alarm Bells!

At a recent meeting of the Ladies Forum in Karachi a message was read out from the Prime Minister in which, among other assurances about giving women their due rights, he said that his government was in the process of introducing a constitutional amendment for the restoration of seats for women in the National and Provincial assemblies. Furthermore he stated that womens seats in the local bodies would be doubled in number, and that women councillors elected on this basis would form the electoral college to elect women to the National and Provincial Assemblies.

This step is a "clear violation of the recommendation made by the Report of the Commission of Enquiry for Women, in contravention of all democratic norms and all the basic principles of recommendations developed over the years that elections to the womens reserved seats must be 1) direct, 2) constituency based and 3) by a joint electorate. It has been further recommended that the proportion of reserved seats across all tiers of representative bodies be 33% to be meaningful and that this provision also be extended to the Senate." Extract from the press release issued by representatives of Aurat Foundation, Human Rights of Pakistan, WAF, Shirkatgah, Tehrik-e-Niswan, Idara-e-Amno Insaf, Action Committee for Human Rights and the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research.

SHE Magazine heartily endorses this resolution and calls upon the Womens wing of the Pakistan Muslim League and all concerned parties to prevail upon the Prime Minister to forego this retrogressive and undemocratic method of voting for the womens' reserved seats, and furthermore calls upon the Prime Minister to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Commission of Enquiry for Women at the earliest possible date.

It is profoundly regrettable that the Census of Housing and Population scheduled to be held from the 18 October through to the 31st October '97 has been postponed to March 1998. Frought with the effects of a significant change in the power structure of the urban-rural divide, the government has decided to dodge the issue. More's the pity — because yet another promise by the Nawaz Sharif government awaits fulfilment. ❖



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