

# PAINT THE CITY GREEN

**Itee Dewan**

**G**oing green seems to be the order of the day. If the buzz is to be believed, the city may soon have its first green building with ONGC's office in South Delhi.

Dr Prem C Jain, chairman, Indian Green Building Council explains the concept of a green building. "A green building is designed in such a manner that 88 per cent of the building is natu-

rally lit and no artificial lights are used during the day. Artificial lights drain out the energy from a human body. That's why at the end of the day, one feels tired and stressed. Natural light keeps you refreshed all day long." The air conditioner is also designed in such a manner that it does not circulate damp air.

All materials used in making a green building — glass, steel, concrete, cement, even carpets are made with recycled material.

Says Jain, "Broken glasses are collected from *kabaadiwallas* and they constitute 30 per cent of the finished product. Fly ash (a residue from steel mills) is mixed with cement. For flooring and furniture, instead of oak tree wood, a mixture of bamboo and straw is used. Even the paints used are chemical free."

Around 100 buildings in India have already registered to go green. Jain's next target is the Ministry of External Affairs!