

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

W.H.O. Report on Health

2523 SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned work for a healthy planet. W.H.O. appearing in the Hindu of June 1, 1992;

(b) if so, the revelations made in the report about inadequacy of sanitation and drinking water facilities in the cities and metropolies in India; and

(c) the steps the Governemnt propose to take under Eighth Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a general reference to the global problem of pollution, lack of water and sanitation facilities. etc.

(c) Drinking water supply and sanitation are State subjects. It is the responsibility of the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies to plan, implement, operate and maintain schemes for providing these facilities to the people living in the urban areas.

The 8th Plan document envisages

(i) extension of safe drinking water facilities to the remaining urban population, so as to achieve the goal of 10% coverage by the turn of the century; (ii) execution of financially viable sewerage schemes in big cities, State capitals, important pilgrim 100%

tourist centres and low cost sanitation facilities in the towns and fringe areas of big cities and (iii) conversion of all dry latrines into low cost sanitary latrines. Apart from the plan assistance under the State and /Central Sectors, emphasis has been laid on institutional resources, fixation of suitable tariffs, cost recovery from beneficiaries, private sector and community participation.

Amendment in Law to Deal With Rape Cases Against Women

2524. SHRI V.S. VJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received any demand from different women's organisations, political parties and media for an amendment in the laws dealing with rape case against women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Governemnt to adopt new legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The Government have not received any representation in the recent past for amendment in the laws dealing with rape cases against women. However, a letter dated 22.12.89 was received from certain Women organisations seeking amendment of the law relating to punishment for the offence of rape to make it clear that while the Court may award imprisonment for less than the minimum term prescribed therein for exceptional reasons, for this purpose the character, reputation, status or any aspect of the conduct of the victim of rape shall have no relevant whatsoever. The question of amending IPC for this purpose is under consideration of the Governemnt.