

It was pointed out in a speech by RSFSR Minister of Forestry N.M. Prilepo that the reorganization of the administrative structure and the transfer, in the main, to a two-tier system of administration is not merely a formal change of "image". The number of administrative employees has been cut by 52.7 per cent within the ministry itself, and by 30 per cent at the Oblast and republican levels. Altogether, 1156 people have been let go.

Today, about 10,000 individuals are members of crews operating under the profit-and-loss accounting system, and about 5,000 more are participating in collective contracts on ranger stations and in workshops.

The year 1988 is the only occasion during the last five years that a State inventory of the forests has been conducted. During this period the area of forest-covered forestry lands increased by 4.6 million hectares.

Note to reader:

It is recommended that this article be compared with an article reporting on an expanded session of the collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry (January 24, 1989). The latter was summarized in "Extracts from the Soviet Press on USSR Forestry and Forest-Based Industries" for December 1988 and January 1989 (INI F10/88).

However, in regions such as the Ivanovo, Kuibyshev, Chelyabinsk and Amur Oblasts, and the Mari, Mordovian and Tatar ASSRs, the foresters have not only failed to improve the Goslesfond (total area of land and