

TRANSPORT RAIL

Complaints About Rail Services

How inter-industry communications fail to operate at transport trans-shipment points and who is responsible for this failure.

The river ports of the towns of Tyumen', Tobol'sk, Surgut, Labytnangi and the settlement of Sergino are the points where the Ob'-Irtysh River Steamship Line comes into contact with various sub-divisions of the USSR Ministry of Railways, mainly those coming under the Sverdlovsk Railway Administration. It is at these points that freight for the rapidly growing Western-Siberian oil and gas industry is transshipped from railway cars into the holds and onto the decks of river-going ships.

It is really regrettable that even today at these transshipment points one can hear the depressing squawk arising from the lack of co-ordination prevailing in the business contacts between the two partners in this operation, which is so important to the national economy.

In the first quarter of this year 195,000 tonnes of freight were due to be shipped by rail to the river ports managed by the Ob'-Irtysh River Steamship Line. Before the shipping season opened only 110,000 tonnes of freight had actually arrived at the wharves of these Western-Siberian rivers. Nor were the figures for April satisfactory, when only two thirds of the planned amount of freight was actually delivered. Among shipments for the enterprises belonging to the Western-Siberian oil industry there was a shortfall of 12,000 tonnes of reinforced concrete, 49,000 tonnes of crushed rock and 7,000 tonnes each of metal and concrete.