

Tyumen-Ishim roads. Here you will find no highway marker-lines, resulting in the risk of driving on to the collapsed and deteriorated shoulder. Directional information signs have not been set up everywhere. The question of the construction of rest-stops for the drivers has not been resolved.

A segment that has been forgotten by all, in the huge network of roads in the West-Siberian oil and gas complex, comprises the winter roads. Along these roads tens of thousands of tons of important freight are delivered to remote industries and geological parties. The total span of the winter roads is about 20 thousand kilometres. And these gigantic transport arteries are controlled neither by the GAI nor by the executive committees of the Soviets; they exist, as it is said, according to the laws of the taiga and they contribute their own not inconsiderable "percentage" to the accident statistics.

The question of setting up a patrol service for departmental winter roads has been under discussion for several years. Moreover, the Glavtyumen'neftegaz (Main Tyumen Administration of the Oil and Gas Industry), the Glavtyumen'gazprom ((Main Tyumen Administration of the Gas Industry), the Glavtyumen'geologiya (Main Tyumen Geological Exploration Administration) and other departments are prepared to help share the cost of such a service. However the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR and the Ministry of Finance of the RSFSR can not come to a final understanding among themselves. With its modest local resources, the GAI is in no condition to assume responsibility for such huge sections of the road.