

time. But the line-up is not getting shorter... Even V.I. Astakhov, Assistant manager of the clinic, could not endure it any longer, and ran into the office in exasperation: "Where did we get so many patients from?"

Editorial Information

General mortality figures among indigenous people of the North are alarming -- the rate is 1.7 times higher than the average for the region's population as a whole (and infant mortality is two times higher). Seventy per cent of the indigenous northerners (this is twice the rate for the RSFSR⁴ as a whole) die before the age of 60. High mortality is observed among the Eveny, the Nganasany and the Orochi in the Khabarovsk Territory, the dolgany in the Krasnoyarskii Territory, the Evenki in the Amur and Chitinsk regions, the Sel'kupy of the Tyumen' region, and the Chukchi of the Magadan region.

Indeed: despite decrees adopted in recent years, rich in content and quite constructive, and other documents more or less related to solving social problems of the North, the situation on this most important area of our public health care remains serious... It would seem that a great deal is being done -- the economy is being developed in these regions, mostly by emphasizing local branches of industry, agriculture, and national craftsmanship trades; conditions in towns and rural settlements are being improved. For the decade beginning in 1980, 70 billion rubles are expected to be spent towards these goals. 42 Ministries and Departments of the Union and 36 Ministries and Departments of the Republic are taking part in carrying out the planned programs.

Translator's note: In this interview, the initials "O.Z." stand for O.Z. Zakharova and "I.K." stand for I. Krasikov.