

First we need some background history. The RK-60 motor vessel was assigned to the river port in 1977 at the request of the Nizhnekolymsk Regional Executive Committee, specifically for organizing passenger transportation on the Cherskiy-Podkhodsk and Cherskiy-Kolyma lines, where regular passenger air services were lacking at the time. In the first years of its operation the income from transport was 11-12 thousand rubles, with operating expenditures of 45-47 thousand. At that time this did not particularly disturb us, as suitable indices would be included in the plan.

The picture changed sharply during the three years following the opening up of regular passenger airlines. Income declined in 1988 to 7.6 thousand rubles, and in 1989 it was down to 8.4 thousand. At the same time the expenditures were respectively 49 and 50 thousand rubles. And this in spite of the fact that Yu. Smirnov, who was in command of the motor ship in 1987 and was truly enterprising and business like, had done everything he could to search for additional income. The coefficients of utilization of the passenger capacity did not exceed 60 percent, and in non-flying weather there were more customers than the motor ship could carry. This depicts an unpromising situation if one examines the real figures rather than the data about an increase in the percentage of income, presented in the letter.

At the same time the simplest analysis shows that when operating at such a capacity an increase in income is accompanied by an increase in expenditures. We have good understanding and support for the concern of Yu. Smirnov about the problems of improving the conditions for the passengers and the crew. The steamship line could assign us a motor ship of design No. 81080 ("Moskovskiy"). However its cost is three times higher than that of the RK-60, and the operating expenses are not 50, but 120 thousand rubles. Thus, in order to cover the losses it is necessary to increase the income almost tenfold. Let us be realistic: no enterprise can help us do this.