

MISCELLANEOUS

A Work Coverall Of Basalt

N. Manzhury, manager of the division of building materials of the "Orgtekhstroi" trust is holding in his hands a seemingly ordinary-looking work coverall with a hood. Nevertheless, this is an experimental model manufactured at the Nadym mining service plant.

The designers have suggested the garment be used by construction workers at the Yamburg and Yamal arctic gas fields.

The manager says: - "This is not any worse than a sheepskin coat. For the first time in the practice of manufacture of work clothes, superfine basalt fibre fabric, an excellent insulator, was used here for padding.

It is true that only a single sample of the outfit was made. At present the padding layer is ten millimetres thick, each basalt fibre being 1 micron in thickness. The specialists at the plant believe that the thermoinsulation effect can be increased considerably if the fibre thickness can be reduced by half. This is currently being pursued simultaneously in three places, Nadym, Yamburg and Labytnangi, where basalt fibre manufacturing equipment is in operation.

The new material is said to be superfine and is very inexpensive to produce. However, there are still reasons for concern.

For instance, who would set up the mass production of this garment, considering that the light industry sector, as in the past, will stay