

situation: in the struggle for their legal rights the workers had exhausted all of the avenues provided by the law.

The fact is that one of the largest woodworking enterprises in Buryatiya has already been operating on starvation rations for five years. The problem is not only not being resolved, it is getting worse. Last year the BWFMA was undersupplied by more than 32,800 cubic meters of long logs as against a planned figure of 310,000, and this year the deficit has already reached 13,000 cubic metres - almost 30 per cent of the deliveries scheduled. Moreover, there has been a sharp deterioration in the quality of the raw material: instead of the planned 60 per cent yield of sawtimber they are managing to obtain no more than 45 per cent.

In literally all sawmilling and woodworking items the State order is not being met. Contracts for deliveries are being disrupted, including shipments for export. As a result, the industrial development, material incentives and social amenities funds are not being built up and people are not being paid on time.

It stands to reason that there is an objective basis for this dramatic situation. Since January 1, 1988 the Ministry of the Timber Industry and the "Zabaikalles" Association have been forbidden to engage in principal fellings in the protected zone of Lake Baikal. In one stroke, the loggers of Buryatiya have been deprived of almost 550,000 cubic metres of allowable cut. Nevertheless, subjective elements are playing an even greater part. They consist in the sluggishness of both the administrative command system and the methods resorted to by the management of "Zabaikalles" and some of the Ministry's sub-divisions.