

For the drilling of boreholes we use mechanisms and equipment manufactured by the plants of the Ministry of Machine Building for the Chemical Industry. Those comprise first of all drill bits and ramming motors. As far as the drill bits are concerned, some encouraging developments took place recently and we receive regular supplies of these parts. But the situation with ramming motors leaves much to be desired. And it is not because we lack good designs. These are well designed, high quality motors which are in mass production. But we are not given a chance to fully utilize this Soviet-made equipment.

As early as 1979, the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Drilling Technology developed a fundamentally new turbine drill, the TPS-172. Already the first experimental models demonstrated their high efficiency. The manufacturing monopoly was given to the Kungur machine-building plant, district of Perm'.

Last year, the Tyumen' geologists received 180 such turbine drills, the current year's plan calls for the delivery of 288. It seemed that a time of abundance had come. Not so. The drillers' situation became even more difficult. The problem is that the new turbine drill can work for 1,200 - 1,300 hours before it is written off, longer if the norm is set at 900 hours. After 400 hours of operation, however, the fast-wearing parts - vanes, bearings, etc. - must be changed. To the chagrin of the geologists, less than twenty percent of their orders for kits with these parts are filled. At the present time, some 200 turbine drills, representing an expenditure of more than two and half million rubles, have been collected and are waiting for repairs at expedition bases.