

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Recovery and Recycling of Wood Wastes - a Call for Action to Redress the Timber Deficit

If we summarize in monetary terms our day-to-day misfortunes -- the undersupply of the national economy and the population with timber and the products that are made from it, and also the losses occasioned by unused deliveries for export -- an impressive figure is obtained: 230 million roubles for every million cubic metres of unsatisfied demand. That's how much the economy loses on account of the careless use of forest resources!

The intention is that by the year 2005, 23 per cent more wood will be extracted from the taiga than is the case today. But this increase will not be sufficient to eliminate the deficit. We must therefore seek a solution through the introduction of improved forest product consumption patterns, increases in the durability of articles made from wood, and enhanced standards of the equipment and technology used to extract and process the timber. For this is already the means whereby efficient use is made of each cubic metre of raw material. At present, 95 million cubic metres of wood are going for fuel. There is not another country in the world which would permit itself such extravagance. Mandatory impregnation of forest products with preservatives has yet to be introduced in our country, even though we are well aware that subsequent to such treatment, planks and square timber would last four to five times longer. Data collected by specialists of the All-Union Research Institute of Economy, Management, Production and Information in the Timber, Pulp-and-Paper and Woodworking Industry (VNIPIEIllesprom) indicate that we are losing 20 million cubic metres of forest products annually through decay. Why is this resource not being utilized? It is because the