

rates such as these the forest resources will only be sufficient for 44 years, whereas to reestablish the resource base, as is well known, would require 100 to 120 years. Indeed, in the Angara region some of the timber industry enterprises are already counting on their fingers the number of years left to them.

For the present, the enterprises lack genuine independence. Their wellbeing is in many respects dependent on instructions received from higher up. But these instructions are very imprecise. For the sector as a whole, the plan for production of roundwood for this year has been increased by seven million cubic metres, and for large and medium-sized assortments it is twice what the forest reserves will permit. It seems reasonable to ask: "Why, then, is Gosplan not concerned about developing the production of wood substitutes?"

Nor should our planners be proud of the lack of realism in the assignments for the production of marketable timber. Why, for instance, did only three of the 15 enterprises in the "Komilesprom" Association cope with the sawtimber production plan last year, while many of them overfulfilled the assignment for cross-cutting? The reason is that what is desired is being passed off as valid, with resulting disruption of deliveries, which explains why our largest sawmills (the one at Archangel, for example) are working at only 70 to 80 per cent of their capacity.

It is also difficult to understand the lackadaisical attitude towards interruptions in shipments of roundwood for export. Even though "Komilesprom" annually exports up to 3,000,000 cubic metres of roundwood, a half of which is sawtimber, its own sawmilling capacities are standing idle. The reason for this is simply that foreigners pay in hard currency for timber, while their own consumers pay in roubles and in much smaller amounts. It is high time to review the system of incentives. There is, however, a hitch to this. Once the enterprises had more

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