

million tonnes are under attack. At the same time, during the last 15 years not a single pulp mill has been built in the USSR. It might have been possible to compensate in part for the shortage of pulp by thermomechanical or chemo-thermomechanical pulp, but the production volumes of it are still very small. We now have to ship pulp to Karelia from Sakhalin. Naturally, the price of it is rising sharply.

Scientists have proposed a dry, ecologically clean method of manufacturing the semi-manufactured product, but it hasn't yet made its mark in the world.

In the circumstances, the planning agencies are resorting to their customary practice of planning for an underdelivery of pulp, even to the point where it is less than the State order. In other words, they are forcing the enterprises to produce paper from air. The low quality of the raw material and the pulp is leading to a situation in which not all of the paper (especially that from Solikamsk) meets the requirements of the State Standard (GOST). It is grey, uneven in texture and becomes dusty during the printing process. Hence the unattractive appearance of the newspapers.

Machines: The pulp and paper industry is just as poorly served by its machines. They are extremely decrepit, unbelievably worn out and hopelessly behind the times. Of the 22 papermaking machines, only two are of modern design (commissioned in 1982). Of the remainder, 12 are between 20 and 30 years old and eight have even reached the half century mark. Obviously, the sector does not have a firm technical foundation.

Almost all the papermaking machines are foreign made. Attempts during the last 15 years to manufacture a domestic model have ended in failure. This means that to