

Four enterprises belonging to different ministries and departments are engaged in furniture production in the Oblast. Their output is valued at just over 20 million roubles. Almost as much furniture again is being brought in as imports and from other parts of the country. All this is meeting roughly half of the demand. How does the industry expect to make up for the shortage?

In the view of the Tomsk people, the solution to the problem lies in developing the furniture combine of the Tomlesprom Association, which currently accounts for approximately 70 per cent of the articles so essential to the Oblast. During the last Five-Year Plan the Combine was made part of the Yugmebel' Association, which had begun supplying Tomsk with sets of facing panels. This step enabled the Tomsk producers to increase the output of cabinet furniture from 8,000,000 to 14,000,000 roubles over a three-year period. Subsequently, however, Yugmebel' began to disrupt deliveries of facing panels more and more frequently. It was for this reason that the Tomsk Combine came to be numbered among the backward enterprises. This year, the furniture production deficit has crept up by one and a half million roubles, with a corresponding disruption of planned deliveries. Is there any way out of this bind?

"Cooperation with Yugmebel' was essential", maintains E.F. Uskov, who was recently elected by the collective to be Director of the Combine. "But today it has become a hindrance. A programme has been developed whereby we are to increase to 22,000,000 roubles the output of furniture.

While production areas are available for the initial steps, we need to acquire the machine tools