

CONSTRUCTION

Improving The Housing Situation In The North

It is not the number of square metres, but the number of apartments completed which now serves as the main indicator in evaluating the progress of the comprehensive housing construction programme in Lesosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk Territory. In one year in this northern city, which is located near the confluence of the Angara and Yenisey Rivers, more than one thousand families moved into new homes, almost 25 per cent more than planned.

More than two dozen industrial enterprises under 13 ministries will put up housing here for their employees. However, the City Council Executive Committee managed to avoid the problems which could have arisen with the involvement of so many different agencies, by stepping in as a co-ordinator of different housing projects.

"We believe that the responsibility should be divided equally between the construction people and the clients", says V. Kadach, Chairman of the City Council Executive Committee. "After all, so often only the builders are blamed for missed completion deadlines. This way the clients never take responsibility for anything. The City Council, with the help of its deputies, was able to convince the business community of the necessity of helping one another. This worked, for example, when the Severnyi Housing Project was under construction, where the builders were falling behind schedule. The entire city came to their assistance."

Sovetskaya Rossiya

27 January 1988

Page 1 (full text)