

you conceive of the magnitude of these funds? Our entire problem, however, lies in the fact that all of this money went to industry and ended up, as a rule, in regional, territorial and district centres.

Over the last ten years the number of reindeer pastures has been reduced by 11 million hectares. If one flies along the northern extremities in a helicopter one can see open wounds in the tundra. An all-terrain vehicle has passed, leaving behind it a trail of caterpillar-like tracks. The tundra will not re-establish itself here for many years to come.

In June of this year, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR thoroughly analyzed the local state of affairs, and studied the issue of additional measures for the economic and social development of these regions in the year 1990 and during the 13th Five-Year Plan. Currently, taking into consideration the opinions of local residents, a long-term program for the economic and cultural development of northern peoples until the year 2005 is being drawn up.

But as before, although a variety of what might be termed good documents were produced and adopted, and funds directed to these regions were quite substantial also, why did they not reach the actual inhabitants?

In my view, the most serious shortcoming consists in the fact that many of these documents were adopted and put into effect without taking into consideration the opinions of the indigenous population. They built where it was easiest to build, and not where the need was most acute. Today the Councils perceive their task as being that of