

is to be stepped up. The production of commercial wood substitutes will also increase. The Ministry has formulated and will be implementing practical steps relating to the organization of output, starting from the current year, and the extensive use in the forests of unitized machinery on wheeled tractors. Although these measures were examined by the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry and the RSFSR State Planning Commission and ratified by the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the USSR State Committee for Forestry is again proposing a downward revision of the designated coupes for these oblasts and republics in the 13th Five-Year Plan.

We are seeing a similar state of affairs even in regions where overcutting has never been allowed. For example, just over 20 years ago the designated coupe for the Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR was 275,000 cubic metres; today it is 88,000. For the Krasnodar Krai it was 3 million cubic metres; today it is 1.4 million.

The practice of mass exemption of forests from active exploitation has become widely prevalent across the country. In the European USSR alone, forests with a total growing stock of about 3 billion cubic metres are exempted from the economic turnover. This is double the size of the stocks in Finland, which annually extracts about 50 million cubic metres. Indeed, the Finns, as was mentioned by Aleksandr Sergeevich Isaev, are making three successive felling visits to a forest which according to our concepts, would be classed as parkland. With us, so many roadblocks have been erected and so many instructions must be observed, that the cutting of timber in this zone, even when the Finnish procedure is followed, is virtually prohibited.