

gas scrubbers is not going at all well, although several good projects exist, such as the one for the large Novoryazan' Station. The economic planners do not want to make major capital investments in the purification field. They think only of the immediate costs, without considering the benefit to the national economy as a whole. It might be a useful idea for local enterprises under other government departments and whose collectives are concerned about the maintenance of atmospheric purity, to contribute a part of the funds needed to build these facilities.

The introduction of gas-purification facilities at thermal electric power stations is very important for the timber industry. There is a wealth of experience in this field throughout the world. Such installations are particularly numerous, for example, in Japan. The Soviet Union is only at the decision-making stage at present. We are sadly lagging in the implementation process. It is unthinkable that a project for a thermal electric power station operating on sulfurous fuel should be approved today without provision for scrubbing the sulfurous gas emissions."

Q. Dr. Laskorin, you've raised another problem: first a factory is built, then ecological experts are consulted. Surely it should be the other way around? Factories should be built with due regard to ecological recommendations and local conditions. This was clearly stated at the 19th Party Conference."

A. "We are only now beginning to deal with this, but as usual it's more a question of words than deeds. March 23, 1987 saw the signing of a protocol of a joint meeting of the Commission for the Study of