

workplace, clinical examinations are performed at the regional polyclinic. The result is that people are taken away from their work, a whole range of problems are created that make it difficult for the clinics to fulfill their prime function (to provide medical treatment), and the bureaucracy gets worse and worse. Naturally in such circumstances the public's attitude towards this type of preventive care system runs more and more toward mistrust.

We believe that most of the work of preventive care should take place in health centres situated within the workplace itself. Public health centres and out-patient preventive clinics already existing in the workplace could serve as a basis for such a system. For example, in our region there are three public health centres and six out-patient preventive clinics. We have already begun setting up such centres at two of them, and we hope they will prove highly effective.

The health fund that was created in our region can serve as an example of how work collectives can participate in the financing of health protection systems. This is the second year now that local businesses in the region, under an agreement that provides medical services to work collectives, have allocated to us a total of more than 40,000 rubles per year towards the development of the health-care system. This is a substantial contribution to our budget.

In general, it is time we clarified our material responsibility towards the "consumer" of medical services. This is not a departure from the principle of free medical care, but a suggestion that the state only pay for such services from its budget under the condition that the consumer is careful with