

A further six chemical fire-control stations have been organized here, which brings their number to 109. The staffing of the grass roots elements of the State forest protection service has been increased by 470 workers. A total of 17 air divisions from the Trans-Baikal, Chita and Irkutsk air bases, including six mechanised detachments, are engaged in aerial protection of the forests. These measures have made it possible to achieve a threefold reduction over the previous year in the areas of forest damaged by fire.

Nor were reforestation activities overlooked. During the period 1987-1989 these were conducted over an area of 76.8 thousand hectares by the forestry enterprises in the basin of Lake Baikal, besides which 47.9 thousand hectares were reforested by enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry.

Forestry agencies performed more than 4,500 checks during 1989. These revealed that the loggers had left behind 77 thousand cubic metres of timber in the form of undercuts (fellings of less than the prescribed quantity), destroyed the understorey of economically valuable species over an area of 480 hectares, and unsatisfactorily cleared more than 5,000 hectares of felling sites. A total of 384 individuals were administratively disciplined for the breaches committed and fines amounting to more than half a million roubles were imposed on the logging organizations. In 1989 alone, failure to clear the felling sites resulted in felling operations being halted in four timber enterprises of the "Zabaikalles" Association and in three such enterprises of the "Chitales" Association of Minlesprom SSSR.

Also, shortcomings exist in the conduct of forestry in the Baikal Basin. Non-clear fellings are slowly being introduced in the Chita forestry association, their volume amounting to only 14 per cent of what was recommended by forest management. The foresters of Buryatia and Chita are consistently failing to fulfill