

and the uninterrupted supply of it for paper production. In theory that is what ought to have happened. Raw material in the form of pulpwood, chips for pulping and firewood exists in sufficient quantities in the zones of activity of the paper mills. However, it has not proved possible to achieve stability in the supply of it. On the contrary, the disorder within the sector has become even worse.

Figuratively speaking, the ministry was unable to hold two cherries in one hand. Under the whine of the saw the formerly rich timber resource bases of Karelia and the Archangel, Vologda, Kostroma, Kirov and Perm oblasts rapidly became exhausted. Softwood from these places by-passed the paper combines and the technology proved unadapted to the processing of "foliage" and waste paper. In order to keep the half-starving mills fed, it was sometimes necessary to permit coniferous sawtimber to go for beating, instead of pulpwood and spruce chips.

According to our information, Japan produces more than 25 million tonnes of paper and paperboard annually. At least 50 per cent of this is manufactured through the secondary processing of waste paper.

In the USSR only about 20 per cent of the waste paper is used, chiefly by enterprises of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply (Gossnab).

Pulp: It stands to reason that without pulp you won't make good paper. However, the production of it nationwide is decreasing rather than increasing. In the last three years alone, capacities for the production of 432,000 tonnes of semi-manufactured product have been withdrawn from service. They have stopped cooking pulp at the Priozersk and Lyaskelya mills and at the Okulovka Pulp and Paper Combine. In view of the worsening ecological situation, capacities for the production of a further half a